

The Believer's
Daily Remembrancer

By

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VOLUME THREE

Note: This devotional can be accessed at: www.lifebpc.com/devotions

PREFACE

The present humble work is a pastoral effort, flowing from love to the Lord's people, and a desire to honor His great name. It is an acknowledged fact, that many of the Lord's people are living far below their privileges; and are walking as men, not aiming singly at the Lord's glory. This is to be regretted; and while none but the Lord the Holy Spirit can produce the change we desire to witness, yet the means are to be used, and we must stir up their pure minds by way of remembrance. In this little work, I aim to speak in the closet, in the cottage, in the kitchen, and even in the field, to the different classes of the Lord's family; endeavoring to draw them nearer to their God and gracious Father. My desire is to promote the power of GODLINESS; and these little pieces are written to convince, comfort, and correct; to fan the flame of devotion, and to produce holiness of heart and life. To this end some degree of sameness in the pieces, and a repetition of some important truths, appeared absolutely necessary. Habitual dependence upon God for all we need, acknowledging the hand of God in all we receive, and walking with God, notwithstanding all that may happen to us below, enter into the very vitals of genuine Christianity; and it is only while we are thus acting that we enjoy peace with God, and walk in the comforts of the Holy Ghost. That the Lord, who often uses weak things to confound the mighty, may bless this little work to thy good and His glory,

Is the prayer of,

Dear Reader,

Yours in the Lord Jesus

JAMES SMITH.

IT is no uncommon thing to mistake the true character of our God, and conceive of Him so as to dishonour His name, and distress our own souls. It is plainly and plentifully asserted in the divine word, that our God is merciful, and the same is satisfactorily proved in nature, providence, and redemption. It is to be firmly believed and constantly remembered, especially when burdened with guilt, or at the throne confessing sin; when enduring trials, or pleading with God for blessings; when performing duties, or suffering privations; when witnessing misery, or comforting mourners. “OUR GOD IS A MERCIFUL GOD.” But mercy and holiness are united in His nature—word—and ways. He is not implacable or difficult to please, but He should be daily loved and constantly trusted. His mercy is the sun that enlightens, the ocean that supplies, and the army that guards us. But for His mercy we should soon sink into despair, or run into desperation; but now we may trust and not be afraid, walk with Him in peace, and rejoice in Him day by day.

(For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.

Deuteronomy 4:31

*Merciful God, Thyself proclaim,
In my polluted breast;
Mercy is Thy distinguished name,
Which suits a sinner best.
Thy mighty mercy now make known
In me, and claim me for Thy son.*

*For thus saith
the LORD of
hosts; After the
glory hath he
sent me unto the
nations which
spoiled you: for
he that toucheth
you toucheth the
apple of his eye.*

Zechariah 2:8

HOW infinitely tender is Jehovah of His people! They had lately been visited with sore judgments; reduced to great straits; appeared to be neglected of God; were generally despised; had only just escaped from the enemy's land; and returned with weeping and supplication, like brands plucked from the burning, to their own country. And now the Lord says, "He that toucheth you, toucheth the apple of His eye." How wonderful the ways of God! As the wise physician, He will touch to cure; but He will not

allow others to touch to hurt. Like the tender mother, He can correct His children Himself; but will not allow others to do so. How close the union! How peculiar the affection! How tender the sympathy! How kind the care! How constant the attention! How merciful the provision! How safe and how happy they are! Beloved, take encouragement under all your persecutions and trials; be comforted in all your afflictions; you are as near and as dear to Jehovah as the apple of His eye; and you are hid under the shadow of His wings.

*No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, thro' Christ, my own.*

THIS is a very serious charge; for God demands the whole heart, and His people profess to surrender it. But have we not reason to fear that many are guilty on this point? They appear so undecided, that we must think that the heart is divided between God and the world; between sin and holiness; between truth and error; or between Christ and self. What are the symptoms of a divided heart? Habitual cleaving to earth. Being satisfied with a form of godliness. Backwardness to examine ourselves. A dislike to plain, close, soul-searching, rousing preaching. Putting away eternal things to a distance. Beloved, how is it with you? God rejects half the heart, He will have all or none. Do you fear on this point? There is a remedy. Thoroughly examine your heart. Condemn whatever you detect amiss in it. Take it to Jesus, and beseech Him to heal it. Expose it to the keen edge of God's word. Endeavour to keep up a constant sense of the presence of God. converse much with eternal realities. As the heart is, so will the life be; so will the comfort and peace be. O Lord, unite my heart to fear thy name!

*Let me, according to Thy word,
A tender, contrite heart receive,
Which grieves at having grieved its Lord,
And never can itself forgive;
A heart Thy joys and griefs to feel,
A heart where Christ alone may dwell.*

Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images.

Hosea 10:2

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 15:26

IT is the office and work of the Holy Spirit to bear testimony of Jesus; He hath done so in the word; there Christ is set forth in His glory and grace. He testifies of Jesus by the preaching of the gospel; for we preach Christ crucified, and are determined (when under Divine teaching) to know nothing else among men. He testifies of Jesus to the heart; and then we see His loveliness, behold His glory, pant for an interest in His salvation, sigh for union to His person; or, trust in His promises, accept His invitations, rejoice in His name, and melt in love and gratitude before Him. We have then no doubt about His divinity, suitability, or love; all we want is to enjoy, possess, and glorify Him. Every idol falls before Him, every grace springs up and is in exercise upon Him; we love Him; believe Him; hope in Him; mourn for Him; are humbled before Him; and are zealous for Him; our language is, "NONE BUT JESUS, NONE BUT CHRIST FOR ME." Oh, for the Spirit, to testify of Jesus to our hearts and consciences, this day and every day, especially our last day; and to bear witness with our hearts that we are sons of God!

*Saviour, I Thy word believe,
My unbelief remove;
Thy testifying Spirit give,
The unction from above:
Shew me, O Lord, how good Thou art,
And fix Thy witness in my heart.*

THE Lord is acquainted with all the sorrows of His people; they do not suffer unnoticed; He sympathises with them, and will sanctify sorrow to them. Israel suffered, but Jesus sympathised. "In all their affliction He was afflicted; and the angel of His presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old." Beloved, He knows our sorrows, and He will be our Comforter. Let us lay them before Him; let us plead with Him; He will be very gracious unto us at the voice of our cry; when He heareth, He will answer. He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He once suffered; He was "THE MAN OF SORROWS; and He is able to succour us who now suffer. His sorrows are ended, and so will ours be soon; weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. We shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. We shall enter into His joy, be filled with His love, and so be forever with Him. O Jesus! suffer me not to dwell on my sorrows, but by Thy Spirit direct my heart into Thy love!

And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

Exodus 3:7

*Away with our sorrow and fear,
We soon shall recover our home;
The city of saints shall appear,
The day of eternity come.*

*Take counsel
together, and it
shall come to
nought; speak the
word, and it shall
not stand: for
God is with us.*

Isaiah 8:10

THE Lord's people are never alone, therefore they should not feel lonely. God is with them as an OBSERVER; He notices every thought, word, and action; every trial, every foe, and every danger. He is with them as a FATHER, loving and holding communion with them. He is with them as the LORD OF HOSTS, having all the armies of earth and heaven under His direction to befriend them. He is with them as a GUIDE, to lead them; as a COUNSELLOR, to plead their cause; as a FRIEND, to supply and comfort them;

as a SAVIOUR, to deliver and exalt them; and as a holy, sin-hating God. He is present with them to try them—to reprove them—to humble them—to preserve them—to comfort them—and to save them with an everlasting salvation. Beloved, let us remember that God is with us, everywhere and always; this will check levity, prevent impatience, make us honest, encourage prayerfulness, inspire with fortitude, and produce diligence. If God is with us thus, He is for us; and if God be for us, who can be against us? But do we so walk, as by our conduct to say, "GOD IS WITH US?"

*Be it my only wisdom here,
To serve the Lord with filial fear,
With loving gratitude;
Superior sense may I display,
By shunning every evil way,
And walking in the good.*

WE need fear nothing but sin; and we have no reason to fear whether God will pardon that, and save us from it, if we believe in Jesus, confess and forsake it. He has promised, "I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities WILL I REMEMBER NO MORE." He will not impute sin unto us; but He will impute righteousness, even the righteousness of Jesus without works. He has made up His mind to glorify the riches of His grace, thus to display the wonders of His love.

No one sin shall be charged upon us, He will blot them all completely out of His book, and banish them eternally from His mind. He will treat us as though we had not sinned, or rather as having received full satisfaction for all we have done amiss, and being infinitely delighted with our persons. If one sin were remembered, and laid to our charge, we were undone; but believing in Jesus, we are justified from ALL SIN, we are saved from wrath, and are made "THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM." This is godlike glorious, divine!

*I, even I, am he
that blotteth out
thy transgressions
for mine own
sake, and will
not remember
thy sins.*

Isaiah 43:25

*Crimes of such horror to forgive,
Such guilty daring worms to spare;
This is Thy grand prerogative,
And none shall in the honour share.
Who is a pardoning God like Thee?
Or who has grace so rich and free?*

*Follow after
charity, and
desire spiritual
gifts, but rather
that ye may
prophecy.*

1 Corinthians 14:1

CHARITY is love; and what can be so worthy of the Christian's thought, care, and anxious desire, as LOVE? Love to God, the centre and source of all excellence; to Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant, the personification of everything that is lovely; to believers, for His sake and because they are His children and representatives; and to sinners, because He commands us. The law requires it, and the gospel, when applied by the power of the Holy Ghost, produces it. It is not in

our hearts by nature; we are ENMITY. It is not to be produced by human effort. It flows from grace. It is produced by the Holy Ghost. It is connected with evangelical sentiment. Its exercise is our happiness and our holiness. There is no real religion without love; and only so much true godliness as there is love. LET US FOLLOW AFTER CHARITY. Let us cultivate love to the Lord's people, for the Lord's sake; not merely those who see as we see, attend the place of worship we attend, and are our personal friends; this is love of party; but let us love all who love Jesus, though in some things they differ from us.

'Tis love that makes our cheerful feet

In swift obedience move;

'Tis love shall tune our joyful songs,

In the sweet realms above.

Jesus, to me this love be given,

Fill me with love, for love is heaven.

THE purpose of God cannot be frustrated. His holy mind can never be disappointed. His will is law. His counsel must stand. He is in one mind, and none can turn Him. He takes pleasure in them that fear Him, and in them that hope in His mercy. He chose them to salvation in Jesus, according to the good pleasure of His will. He works in us to will, and to do, of His good pleasure. He will fulfill in us all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power. He is PLEASED to save His people with an everlasting salvation. He is PLEASED with our obedience to His precepts. It is our Father's good pleasure that gives us the kingdom. He accomplishes the purposes of His will by angels—they are His ministers which do His pleasure; by men, good and bad; by devils; by Jesus Christ; the pleasure of the Lord prospers in His hand. For His pleasure all things are and were created; and He worketh all things after the counsel of His own will. Let us seek to be like-minded with our God; let us acquiesce in all that pleases Him, and let us take pleasure in glorifying Him.

*Declaring the end
from the
beginning, and
from ancient times
the things that
are not yet done,
saying, My counsel
shall stand, and
I will do all my
pleasure:*

Isaiah 46:10

*God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm:
His power and wisdom will fulfil,
The utmost counsel of His will.*

*Whoso keepeth
the fig tree shall
eat the fruit
thereof: so he that
waiteth on his
master shall be
honoured.*

Proverbs 27:18

AND who is our master but Jesus? One is your master, even CHRIST. We have chosen to serve Him, because He chose to save us. He has given us the knowledge of salvation by the remission of our sins, that we may serve Him without fear, in righteousness and holiness all the days of our life. Our happiness is found in obeying our Master's word, and studying our Master's will. Let us wait on Him for the word of command, nor dare to proceed without it. Let us wait on Him for ability, to do and suffer all

His righteous will. Let us wait His time for every promised blessing, and continue looking in faith until we receive it. Let us expect to live at His table, and wait on Him for a supply of all our needs, both spiritual and temporal. Let us wait on Him in private, and in public always form a part of His retinue. He will honour us, for He has said, "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be, if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." We shall know the truth, and the truth shall make us free; and all such are free indeed.

*That wisdom, Lord, on me bestow,
From every evil to depart;
To stop the mouth of every foe,
While upright both in life and heart.
The proofs of godly fear I give,
And shew them how true Christians live.*

HOWEVER hot the war, or sore the trial, we may be sure of this, that “as our day, so shall our strength be.” God has promised, and He will give. He gives because they are His people, as the father to His children; because He has covenanted to do so, and He is faithful; lest their foes should triumph over them, whereas He has said, “They shall overcome at the last.” He has raised their expectations, and He will not disappoint them; He has commanded them to pray, and He will not refuse. He will give strength sufficient—enough, but perhaps none to spare—suitable to their circumstances and wants. Has the Lord pledged Himself to give strength to His people; yea, to be Himself their strength? Then let us fight courageously, look forward joyfully, bear every cross patiently; pray fervently; praise daily; and believe confidently. God hath spoken—saints in every age have found Him a truth-telling, promise-performing God—Satan is a liar, a deceiver, a false witness against God—let us therefore resist him, and he will flee from us.

*The LORD will
give strength unto
his people; the
LORD will bless
his people with
peace.*

Psalms 29:11

*Give me Thy strength, O God of power;
Then let winds blow, or thunders roar,
Thy faithful witness will I be:
'Tis fix'd; I can do all through Thee:
Fulfil Thy sovereign counsel, Lord,
Thy will be done, Thy name adored!*

Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

Proverbs 28:14

GODLY fear flows from grace, and is always connected with spiritual knowledge. It is the fear of a tender child, who would not on any account grieve a kind and loving parent. It is a covenant blessing. Our God bestows it on all whom He loves; and they consequently fear to offend Him, their Father; dishonour their gracious Saviour, or grieve the Holy Comforter. They fear lest they should be led astray from God, by their own hearts; by Satan; by professors; by the world; or any of the dispensations of

providence. They fear to trust their own judgments; they reverence God's word; and dread a lukewarm state. Happy is the man who THUS feareth alway; he happily preserves a tender conscience; a humble mind; and a consistent walk. He proves his interest in all new-covenant blessings; has much to do with the blood of atonement; and enjoys a solid peace. He is in a happy state, standing high in the favour of God, walking in the comforts of the Holy Ghost, and keeping himself unspotted from the world. Oh, for godly fear to rule my heart, and preserve my goings!

*Fear Him, ye saints! and ye will then
Have nothing else to fear;
Make ye His service your delight,—
He'll make your wants His care.*

THIS was in consideration of our ignorance. We know not the way to our heavenly Father's house, but Jesus is sent to lead the blind by a way which they knew not. On account of the difficulties of the way, they are many and great, but Jesus comes as our Leader, saying, "I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you." It manifests our heavenly Father's concern for our safety, comfort, and confidence. He sent His only Son, because He could trust us in His hands; He being infinitely wise, gracious, forbearing, and powerful. He came to lead us from the world to the church, from the law to the gospel, from sin to holiness, from wrath to love. He leads all His people to the throne of mercy, the house of prayer, the pastures of Jehovah's love, and the mansions of endless glory. He leads us against Satan, and we overcome; against lust, and we conquer. He leads us in the way He went Himself; in the footsteps of His flock: as we are able to bear; so as to cross and crucify the old man, and revive and strengthen the new.

*Behold, I have
given him for a
witness to the
people, a leader
and commander to
the people.*

Isaiah 55:4

*Lead me on, Almighty victor,
Scatter every hostile band;
Be my guide and my protector,
Till on Canaan's shores I stand:
Shouts of victory
Then shall fill the promised land.*

*The ox knoweth
his owner, and
the ass his
master's crib: but
Israel doth not
know, my people
doth not consider.*

Isaiah 1:3

THIS is a complaint preferred against us by our infinitely gracious God; let us attend to it a little this morning. What should we consider? Surely, how great things the Lord hath done for us; He hath delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling, that we may walk before God in the land of the living. How God provides for all His creatures, even the meanest, and therefore will certainly provide for us; being engaged to do so as our Creator, Preserver, covenant God, and gracious Father. That He is

the supreme, and universal Governor; arranging, managing, and directing every event; so that accident can never happen, chance can have no place, but all is directed by infinite wisdom and omnipresent love. Why do we not consider? Because our hearts are fickle, false, and worldly; our minds are influenced by unscriptural notions; and we endeavour to walk by sight instead of faith. What are the consequences of our not considering? Our God is dishonoured and displeased; our souls are alarmed and misled; and Satan gains an advantage over us.

*Jesus, mighty to renew,
Work in me to will and do;
Stem my nature's rapid tide,
Slay my vile self-righteous pride!
All thy power in me be shown,
Take away the heart of stone!*

It is no unusual thing for the Lord's people to be cast down, and filled with tormenting fears. They fear their faith is presumption, their hope delusion, and that they shall one day disgrace that holy name by which they are called. They fear to rely on a naked promise, and want comfortable feelings to underprop their faith. But they should take up the Psalmist's resolution, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee." Jehovah in Jesus is the only proper object of trust, and He should be trusted at all times. Beloved, it is well when we can say, "I will depend upon the faithful promise of my gracious God; I will rely on the free grace of my adorable Saviour; I will hope in covenant mercy for evermore; I will fly to my Father's bosom; and venture all in my Saviour's hands." Let us trust in God, in opposition to frames and feelings. Let us trust in covenant love, though providence appears to frown. Our God has said, "Trust ye in the Lord forever." Here is our warrant, let us seek grace to say with Job, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him."

*What time I am
afraid, I will trust
in thee.*

Psalms 56:3

*Oh, let me then at length be taught
What I am still so slow to learn,
That God is love, and changes not,
Nor knows the shadow of a turn:
To cast on Him my anxious cares,
And triumph o'er my doubts and fears.*

*Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.
1 Peter 5:5*

IT is of great importance, to have and to cherish right views of our own littleness and insignificance; of our own vileness and unworthiness; and of our absolute and constant dependence on the mercy of our God. To possess a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price; that so we may be humble under cross providences, *considering* our sin and ill-deservings, how we have requited the Lord; *seeing* the hand of God working all in all; *acknowledging* Divine providence, let who or what will be the instruments; to be *contented* with our lot, with such things as we have, uniting godliness with contentment; to be habitually *looking* at the Lord Jesus, what He was in His ancient glory—what He became for us—what He now is—and what we shall soon be with Him. Humility is the best garment for a justified sinner to wear, for God has said He will look to and dwell with the humble. He giveth grace unto the humble. He that humbleth himself shall be exalted. He will hear the cry, grant the desire, and save the humble person.

*Jesus, from my proud heart remove
The bane of self-admiring love!
Oh, make me feel and own with shame,
I less and worse than nothing am!
The least of saints with pity see,
The chief of sinners save, in me!*

THIS is one of the titles of our adorable Saviour. His Father gave Him to be a witness, to testify unto us of His love, and His testimony is: "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." To testify of His will in reference to sinners, and this is His witness: "This is the will of Him that sent me, that every one that seeth the Son, (perceiveth His divinity, His authority, and office,) and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day." To testify of His delight in making His people happy; and this is the record: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." He bare witness that our God and Father will do for us, and give unto us, all that our circumstances require; and we know that His witness is true. Let us therefore believe it, simply on the ground of His divinity, knowledge, integrity, veracity, and the interest He takes in our happiness and His Father's glory. Jesus is the faithful Witness, and our glorious Friend.

*And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
Revelation 1:5*

*Great Witness from above,
My tongue would bless Thy name:
Be Thee the joyful news
Of my salvation came;
The joyful news of sin forgiven,
Of hell subdued, and peace with heaven.*

*Blessed are the
pure in heart:
for they shall
see God.*

Matthew 5:8

IT is faith that purifies the heart; it brings home the atonement, and we enjoy pardon, peace, and reconciliation; it purges the conscience from dead works, and delivers us from all condemnation. It receives the truth of God, and Jesus through the truth; and we receive power to become the sons of God. We realize our relationship to God, read the gracious promises God has made, and anticipate the glorious kingdom He has prepared; hope rules in the heart, and every one that has this hope in Him purifies himself, even as Christ is pure.

His conscience is made tender, his intentions are honest, and his heart is sound in God's statutes. He groans under a body of sin and death, proclaims eternal war with the flesh, and loathes himself on account of filthiness in the spirit. He would give a world to be free from sin, for holiness is the element of his soul. He is blessed. He shall see God, and enjoy Him as his Father, Portion, and everlasting all. He shall be with his God; and be like Him, in purity, happiness, and glory.

*Jesus, the crowning grace impart;
Bless me with purity of heart,
That now beholding Thee,
I soon may view Thy open face,
On all thy glorious beauties gaze,
And God forever see!*

WE have never seen the glorified body of Jesus, but we have believed what His word declares of Him, and believing we love Him. As the only-begotten Son of God, who was exalted, dignified, and glorified from everlasting; as the voluntary Saviour of poor lost sinners, who became incarnate, suffered, bled and died for them. We love His adorable person—His countenance is majesty—His heart is love—His hand is omnipotence—His eye is bountifulness—His bowels are compassion—and His presence and smile are heaven. We love His precious salvation—in its freeness—completeness—and glory. We love His delightful promises, which anticipate our wants—meet all our wishes—and fill our souls with peace. We love His throne, where He meets us—attends to our requests—and blesses us indeed. We love His holy precepts, which exhibit His authority—display His love—and call us to holiness. We love His heaven-born family, who wear His likeness—are the excellent of the earth—and resemble the children of a king. Oh to love Him more! To love Him with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength! To manifest our love to Him by holy actions, and a useful life!

*Whom having not
seen, ye love;
in whom, though
now ye see him
not, yet believing,
ye rejoice with joy
unspeakable and
full of glory:*

1 Peter 1:8

*A bleeding Saviour, seen by faith;
A sense of pardoning love;
A hope that triumphs over death,
Give joys like those above.*

*And when he was
at the place, he
said unto them,
Pray that ye
enter not into
temptation.*

Luke 22:40

TEMPTATIONS are trials; but by temptations very generally we understand solicitations to evil. Satan is the arch-tempter; he uses every possible variety of instruments, to draw us into sin and folly; consequently we are always in danger from him. But we are liable to be led astray by his temptations often, because they are sudden—powerful—importunate—deceptive—so timed as to fall in with our peculiar circumstances. Also because our hearts are weak—changeable—prone to evil—open to

seduction. How many eminent saints have fallen! Let us beware! Falling into temptation dishonours God, disgraces religion, and distresses the soul. God is able to preserve and deliver us. He has promised. But prayer is implied in every promise. Beloved, daily remember you have a malicious and designing foe; he is present with you; he will use saints and sinners as instruments to lead you astray. Pray without ceasing. Pray in simplicity—in sincerity—with importunity. God is faithful, and will make a way for your escape.

*Jesus, Redeemer, Saviour, Lord,
The weary sinner's Friend.
Come to my help, pronounce the word,
And bid my troubles end:
Wisdom and strength to me impart,
To quench each flaming fiery dart.*

BY nature we are without Christ and are far from Him; by grace we accept His invitation, and come to Him feeling our need of Him. We are brought to see that nothing but union to Jesus can make us safe and happy; and to give up ourselves to Him, praying to be one with Him; He receives us, sheds abroad His love in our heart, and we become members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. He then bids us abide in Him, which we do by living in absolute dependence upon Him; by cleaving to Him in love as our beloved Saviour, God, and Friend; by openly professing our attachment to Him, and expectations from Him; by walking in daily fellowship and communion with Him; and by identifying our cause with His. Beloved, we must abide in Jesus if we would get sin mortified; our graces nourished; our lusts subdued; obtain victory over the world; prove a match for Satan; and obtain all necessary supplies. Abiding in Jesus will give us a single eye; a burning zeal; holy discretion; and enable us to seize all opportunities to glorify His adorable name.

*Abide in me,
and I in you.
As the branch
cannot bear fruit
of itself, except it
abide in the vine;
no more can ye,
except ye
abide in me.*

John 15:4

*Hail, gracious Saviour, all divine!
Mysterious, ever living vine!
To Thee united may I live,
And nourished by Thine influence thrive;
Still may my soul abide in Thee,
From envy, pride and malice free.*

*Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.
Isaiah 45:21*

GOD cannot part with His justice even to gratify His love; and His justice shines equally with His grace in the present and eternal salvation of our soul. He gave His Son for a Substitute, He appointed Him to be our Surety, and punished Him in our stead. He justly condemned Him to die, though guiltless, because our sins were imputed to Him; and He justly raised Him from the dead, because our sins had been expiated by Him. His work was perfect, therefore His deliverance was just. He is a just God, and therefore never will exact the same debt of the sinner, which was paid by His surety; nor condemn Him for that for which His Substitute atoned. His justice will shine in our eternal acquittal, and be eternally honoured in our endless salvation. He drew the plan of salvation, sent His Son to execute it, gives His Spirit to put us in possession of the blessing, and at last receives us to Himself, of purest grace. "He saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

*Mystery of redemption this—
All my sins on Christ were laid;
Mine offence was reckon'd His;
He the great atonement made!
Here His justice He displays,
While He saves my soul by grace.*

THIS should be the Christian's daily prayer; his way is rough, the dangers are many, his foes are powerful, and he is liable to fall. If we from the heart present this prayer, it proves that we have a sense of our own weakness; a knowledge of the Lord as our strength; genuine humility working within; and a desire to honour God ruling in the conscience. We are in the world, and unless the Lord hold us up, we shall bring guilt on the conscience, disgrace on the gospel, and dishonour to God. We are in the church, and unless the Lord hold us up, we shall prove roots of bitterness, stumbling-blocks, and grieve the godly. We shall be, if we are not, in affliction, and unless the Lord hold us up, we shall faint, be angry with God, as was Jonah, or be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. O believer, lean not on earth; trust not in a friend; place no dependance on gifts; but let your daily, yea, hourly prayer be, "HOLD THOU ME UP, AND I SHALL BE SAFE." The ear of thy God is open, the heart of thy God is tender, the arm of thy God is strong.

Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.

Psalm 119:117

*Son of God! Thy blessing grant;
Still supply my every want;
Unsustained by Thee, I fall;
Send the strength for which I call;
Weaker than a bruised reed
Help I every moment need.*

*And the way of
peace have they
not known:*

Romans 3:17

PEACE is an invaluable blessing, whether we consider it as reconciliation to God, or tranquillity and comfort of mind. It is not to be obtained by the works of the law, but if we would obtain peace, it must be by receiving the Saviour's word into our heart; by believing on Him as able and willing to save; by trusting the testimony God hath given of His Son; by renouncing self, as loathsome in the sight of God; by relying simply and always on Jesus for all we need; and by daily making a hearty surrender

of all to infinite love. If we would maintain peace, we must confide in the promises; walk by the precepts; be loyal to the King of Zion; commune daily with our heavenly Father; attend upon Him in the ordinances of His own appointment; rely on His special and particular providence; frequent the open fountain for purification; cleave to the saints in love, as the body of Christ; and disentangle our affections from the world, and set them on things above. This is the way, walk ye in it. Let nothing tempt you to leave it. Endeavour by all means to attract others to it.

*There is no path to heavenly bliss,
Or solid joy, or lasting peace,
But Christ, th' appointed road:
Oh, may I tread the sacred way,
By faith rejoice, and praise, and pray
Till I sit down with God.*

THE dispensations of divine providence are often very perplexing; our God has His way in the sea, and his path in the deep waters, and His footsteps are not known. Reason is confounded, and faith is staggered; but He hushes our fears, silences our cries, and bids us "BE STILL." We must lie before Him, as the lamb at the shepherd's feet; as the child in the parent's arms. He will not harm us Himself, nor will He let others do so. We must learn that He is God infinitely wise, invariably good, always a Sovereign. He doeth according to His will in heaven, on earth, in the sea, and all deep places. None can stay His hand, or dispute His right to accomplish His will. Let us therefore keep silence before Him. He is our God, and we are His people; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endureth throughout all generations. Let us not murmur, for He is gracious; let us not complain, for He is a Father unto us; let us not fear, for He is faithful: but let us wait upon Him, submitting in all things to His will, and surrendering ourselves into His hands with "Here am I, do with me as seemeth Thee good."

*Be still, and
know that I am
God: I will be
exalted among
the heathen, I will
be exalted in the
earth.*

Psalm 46:10

*When I can trust my all with God,
In trial's fearful hour—
Bow, all resign'd, beneath His rod,
And bless His sparing power.
A joy springs up amidst distress,—
A fountain in the wilderness.*

*We then, as
workers together
with him, beseech
you also that ye
receive not the
grace of God in
vain.*

2 Corinthians 6:1

BY the “grace of God” in this passage, we are to understand the everlasting gospel; which is a glorious proclamation of favour manifested to the vile and unworthy. It proclaims that God has come down unto us in the person of Christ; that He has accepted the labours, sufferings, and death of Jesus, as the ground of our deliverance from death, and as our title to eternal life; and He now sends His ambassadors to assure us that he is our Friend; that He will not impute our trespasses unto us; that He views

us in Jesus as a NEW CREATION; all former things are passed away and forgotten; and He will make all who receive His word, and believe in His Son, the righteousness of God in Him. Let us not then receive this glorious message in vain; we do so if we indulge the thought that God is angry with us; if we doubt our acceptance of God in Christ; if we fear that He will be wroth with us. He informs us of His grace to encourage us to believe, to quicken us in His ways, to embolden us at His throne, to produce love to His name, and to furnish us with an answer to all objections.

*Oh, what amazing words of grace
Are in the gospel found!
Suited to every sinner's case,
Who knows the joyful sound.
May I this glorious grace receive,
And to my Saviour's glory live.*

THE Lord hath concealed His face, His favour could not be discovered, but marks of displeasure appeared; yet the church determines not to despond or yield to fear, but to wait upon the Lord who was hiding Himself from the house of Israel, and to look for Him. It is a great trial to a real believer for his God to hide His face: but it is still his privilege to wait daily at His gates, and to watch at the post of His doors, persuaded that He will turn again, and display His forgiving love. We must not give up hope, nor abandon the Lord's ways, nor restrain prayer before Him; but we must wait in faith, believing His word; in expectation, trusting His faithfulness. Nothing should be allowed to weaken our faith in God's word, or drive our souls from His throne. He waits for the fittest time to be gracious; and we should wait His time to be comforted, or delivered. Wait on the Lord and KEEP HIS WAY. Wait as a servant for his master's return; as a child for his father's blessing; as a bride for the tokens of her bridegroom's love. He says, "Behold, I come quickly; blessed is he that watcheth."

And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.

Isaiah 8:17

*Still nigh me, O my Saviour; stand,
And guard in fierce temptation's hour;
Hide in the hollow of Thy hand,
Show forth in me Thy saving power;
Still be Thine arm my sure defence,
Nor earth nor hell shall pluck me thence.*

*Who delivered us
from so great a
death, and doth
deliver: in whom
we trust that he
will yet deliver us;*

2 Corinthians 1:10

HOW many times has our God delivered us, from how many dangers, in how many ways; and He who hath delivered, doth deliver, and in Him we trust that He will yet deliver us. He delivered us from spiritual death, by the operations of His Holy Spirit, and from eternal death, by the sacrifice of His Son. We were dead, but we are now alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; and He who delivered from the greatest evil, spiritual death, will not refuse to deliver us from any lesser danger. Let us trust in Him, rely upon Him, and expect Him to deliver; it is written, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." He knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation. Let us triumph with Paul, "The Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion; and the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." If He had not intended to carry on the work, He would not have begun it, for He well knew what opposition it would meet with; but He that began will perfect it in the day of Jesus Christ.

*Yet I must fight, if I would reign:
Increase my courage, Lord!
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by Thy word.*

BELOVED, we are strangers and pilgrims in the earth, as all our fathers were; our days are as a shadow, and there is no abiding. We are born from above and are bound for glory. We are distant from home, where our kindred, our treasure, and our hearts are found. Here we have no fixed residence; nor should we have any fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. We are called to submit to many inconveniences. The Bible is our light, our food, our joy, and our directory. We want a guide, a guard, a companion, a comforter; but Jesus has engaged to fill each of these offices. We should pray for the peace of the country where we sojourn; we should not be meddlers with its concerns, but keep ourselves detached, we should be thankful for every advantage, but set and keep our affections on things above; we should neither be impatient nor reluctant in reference to going home, but submit to our Father's will; we should consider ill-treatment as permitted to do us good; and contrast the present with our own beloved country and home.

*I am a stranger
in the earth:
hide not thy
commandments
from me.*

Psalms 119:19

*There is my house and portion fair,
My treasure and my heart are there,
And my abiding home;
For me my elder brethen stay,
And angels beckon me away,
And Jesus bids me come.*

*That, according
as it is written, He
that glorieth, let
him glory in the
Lord.*

1 Corinthians 1:31

IT is unlawful to glory in ourselves, our descent, our possessions, our connections, or doings; if we glory it must be in the Lord. We must glory in Him as gracious and merciful, exercising loving-kindness and tender mercies in the earth; in what He is to His people, their God, their portion, and their Friend; in what He has for us, has already given to us, and will without doubt bestow upon us. In Christ, as crucified for our sins, raised for our justification, and ascended to heaven in order to plead our cause, and take possession of the kingdom in our names. In our relation to Him, interest in Him, and oneness with Him, this is our glory, that we are one with Christ, and one with the Father through Him. That we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ; that all things are for our sakes, that the abundant grace might, through the thanksgiving of many, redound to the glory of God. Beloved, let us glory in the Lord, in His free grace, eternal love, well-ordered covenant, precious promises, splendid mansions, and glorious name.

*In Christ my full salvation stands,
In Him alone my glorying be;
Nothing shall pluck me from His hands,
From condemnation I am free:
Be holiness my costly dress,
And my best robe His righteousness.*

LET us inquire. What are they? Do we possess them? Spiritual life—evidenced by convictions of sin; hatred to sin; crying to God for deliverance from sin; groaning under the weight of the body of sin and death. A tender conscience—which trembles at sin, and feels deeply for God’s glory. A filial fear of God,—lest we should dishonour His name, disgrace His cause, and grieve His love. An anxiety and deep-rooted concern for holiness,—both in the heart and the life. Contrition or brokenness of heart for sin,—accompanied with holy mourning before God. Fervour in devotion,—earnestly breathing out the desires of the heart before God, or grieving when it is not so. A jealousy of self,—as to our sincerity and uprightness of intention; lest we should be led astray by the corruptions which are within. A chaste conversation coupled with fear. Diligence in the means of grace. Searching the scriptures, to ascertain our real state and condition; what is the Lord’s will and our duty. An increasing discovery of our own weakness, imperfection, and misery.

But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

Hebrews 6:9

*Ye saints! your music bring,
And swell the rapturous sound;
Strike every trembling string,
Till earth and heaven resound:
The triumphs of the cross we sing,—
Awake, ye saints! each joyful string*

1 August

*For therefore we
both labour and
suffer reproach,
because we trust
in the living
God, who is the
Saviour of all men,
specially of those
that believe.*

1 Timothy 4:10

THE living God is opposed to a dying world, to our dying frames, and to our dying friends; these must not be trusted, or we shall be wretched. Our God may, ought to be trusted, for He is the only suitable object of a Christian's trust; He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think. He is immutable. He never disappointed a sinner's hope, if founded on His word; or refused a believer's petition, for deliverance or relief. If we trust in the living God, it will preserve us from perpetual disappointment; from bitter reflections on self and others; from many dangers; and from the threatened curse. If we trust in the living God we are blessed; we shall be fruitful; we shall be delivered from slavish fears; we shall enjoy perfect peace; we shall be provided for; we shall find a refuge in every storm; have an answer for all who reproach us; experience firmness and stability; and enjoy solid happiness. Let us ascertain, Are we trusting in the living God? Let us seek grace, daily to live in simple, child-like dependence upon Him. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord.

*In Thee, O Lord, I put my trust,
Mighty and merciful and just,
Who hides my life above;
Thou canst, Thou wilt my helper be;
My confidence is all in Thee,
My faithful God of love.*

THE Lord speaketh unto us as unto children; He speaks in reference to our afflictions: they are chastisements; they are sent in love; when we are chastened we are judged of the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. Let us not faint under them, let us not despise them. We do so when we think there is no occasion for them, and that we could do as well, or better without them. When we do not seek to ascertain the cause why they are sent, or to learn the lessons they are intended to teach. When we do not acknowledge the Lord's right to chasten; His love in doing it; and His wisdom in the time, nature, and duration of the trial. When we do not seek grace to submit cheerfully, or at least silently; and to glorify God in it, and after it. When we do not seek to be improved in our knowledge, sanctity, and spiritual vigour by it. When with a carnal, flesh-pleasing view, we seek to be delivered from it. Beloved, let us beware of despising divine chastisement in any of these ways; but let us glorify God in the day of visitation.

And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: Hebrews 12:5

*Father, if Thou must reprove
For all that I have done,
Not in anger, but in love,
Chastise Thy wayward son
Correct with kind severity,
And bring me home to Thee.*

3
August

*But I am poor
and needy; yet
the Lord thinketh
upon me: thou art
my help and my
deliverer; make
no tarrying, O my
God.*

Psalm 40:17

WHEN we think of the greatness and glory of Jehovah, man appears so worthless and insignificant, that we are ready to ask, "Will the Lord regard us, bless us, and dwell with us?" Yes—He has promised to do so in His word, and He has informed us that His thoughts are perpetually taken up with us. He thinketh upon us, to supply our need, protect from foes, lead us in His ways, and make us meet for His kingdom and glory. His thoughts are thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give us an expected end. He thinketh

upon us by day and by night, when at home or abroad; and He thinks of us with love as His children; with pleasure as His friends; with a purpose to bless us, as His dependants. We think He may perhaps have mercy, He may do a little for us; but as high as the heavens are above the earth, so are His thoughts above our thoughts; and His ways above our ways. His thoughts are worthy of a God. What are the promises? Only His thoughts put into our language. And what do they prove? Truly that He thought of all our wants, wishes, and desires, and made full provision for them.

*Father, I want a thankful heart,
I want to taste how good Thou art;
To plunge me in Thy mercy's sea,
And comprehend Thy love to me;
The length, and breadth, and depth, and height,
Of love divinely infinite.*

WE are often at a loss to account for many things in our feelings, in our circumstances, and in the Lord's dealings with us; but what we know not now, we shall know hereafter. This is our Saviour's promise; let us take the comfort of it, and expect its fulfilment to our perfect satisfaction by-and-bye. We shall know some things before the coming of our Lord, and we shall know all things after. Every difficulty will then be cleared up, and all the trying dispensations of divine providence accounted for. Let us therefore be patient, and wait the Lord's time; the coming of our Lord draweth nigh. Let us silently submit to our Father's will, for we shall see that it was wise and kind. Let us acknowledge the right of God to conceal the cause of His working, until He has fully accomplished His designs. Let us praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that is to come. "Now we see through a glass darkly, but we shall soon see Him face to face; now we know but in part, then shall we know even as also we are known." May the Lord direct our hearts into His love, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

John 13:7

*Jesus, we own Thy sovereign hand,
Thy faithful care we own;
Wisdom and love are all Thy ways,
When most to us unknown;
To Thee we cheerfully resign,
For Thou art ours, and we are Thine.*

5
August

*He hath given
meat unto them
that fear him:
he will ever be
mindful of his
covenant.*

Psalm 111:5

THE Lord's people knew their God as a covenant God, reconciled to them, at peace with them, and dwelling among them, through the work of Jesus. He has made a covenant in which they are interested, from which all their blessings flow, and on which their confidence is founded. Of this covenant, God is ever mindful. He is mindful of the engagements of Jesus as our Surety; of the relationship in which He was pleased to manifest Himself, as our Father; of the state in which He viewed us, as poor wretched

sinner; of the provision He made for His own glory and our needs; of the promise made to Jesus, including all the promises made to us; of the oath He swore, that He would not be wroth with us; of the blood of His Son, as the victim slain to confirm and ratify it; of the end He had in view in making it, even the display of all His glorious perfections in our eternal salvation. He will ever be mindful of His covenant. He cannot forget it, He will not act contrary to it, but will confirm it even to the end. Beloved, let us also be ever mindful of His covenant.

*Firmer than heaven His covenant stands;
Tho' earth should shake, and skies depart,
We're safe in our Redeemer's hands,
Who bears our name upon His heart;
For us He lived, and died, and rose,
And triumphed over all our foes.*

THE believer's happiness and Jehovah's pleasure are united; we are only happy as we are near to Him, and He is only pleased as we cleave unto Him. He has taken us into a near relationship as His children, people, and beloved bride; He has represented our union by the most striking figures, the branch in the vine, the member with the head, and the building with the foundation. He has made His name our strong tower, His Son our fountain of supply, and His secret place our home. In living near to Him, we enjoy the sweetest comforts; possess unutterable peace; realise the fullest liberty; and find safety and rest. Our assurance, light, holiness, and strength come from His presence; our misery, wretchedness, and woe, from living at a distance from Him. He invites us this morning, as Jacob did his beloved son, "Come near unto me." He intends to bless us, as that patriarch did his child; to discover Himself unto us; to show us His covenant and secret; to make us understand His will and word; to preserve us from all evil, fill us with grace, and conform us to His image.

Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

Isaiah 48:16

*When trials vex my doubting mind,
Jesus, to Thy dear wounds I'll flee;
No shelter can I elsewhere find,
No peace or comfort but in Thee:
To Thee my cause I recommend,
On Thee for future grace depend.*

*He which testifieth
these things saith,
Surely I come
quickly. Amen.
Even so, come,
Lord Jesus.*

Revelation 22:20

WHO is this proposing to come quickly? Is it an enemy threatening us? Is it a stranger? No—it is JESUS whom we love, speaking to cheer us. It is IMMANUEL, to whom we are betrothed in righteousness, judgment, lovingkindness, mercies, and faithfulness. It is our SAVIOUR, who saved us by His death, and preserves us by His life. He will come shortly, the period cannot be far distant. He will come gladly, with delight and pleasure to receive us to Himself. “Surely,” He says, “I come quickly;” and is it not a source of joy to us—does it not excite and draw forth holy expectation? He comes to end our persecutions, to silence our complaints, to conform us to His image, to fill us with His love, to clothe us with His glory, and to bring us grace. Do we say with the church, “Amen, even so, come, Lord Jesus”? Or, are we indifferent about His coming? He says, “Behold, I come quickly; blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” Let us look for, and hasten to the coming of the day of God. He comes for our redemption. His coming completes our salvation.

Fly, ye seasons, fly still faster:

Let the glorious day come on,

When we shall behold our Master

Seated on His heavenly throne!

When the Saviour

Shall descend to claim His own.

RASH speculations are inconsistent with Christianity; and getting in debt is as much a breach of the divine precept as robbery or murder. Every believer should live within his income, and not bring a disgrace on religion, by contracting debts which he is unable to pay. If he has done so, he should be very humble; he should confess his sin before God, and pray to be enabled to fulfil his engagements. It is not necessary that he should make an appearance, as it is called; but it is necessary that he should adorn the doctrine of God his Saviour. He that is in debt, and is not grieved by it, humbled under it, and striving to extricate himself from it, is a very suspicious character, whatever profession he may make. Our God says, and He speaks to all who profess His name, "OWE NO MAN ANYTHING BUT LOVE." A Christian's payments should be prompt and punctual; his word should be as firm as a bond, and his promise as sacred as an oath. Oh, may our God bring back His people to primitive simplicity! May they all be slow to promise, quick to perform, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8

*Let those who bear the christian name
Their holy vows fulfil;
The saints—the followers of the Lamb,
Are men of honour still.
Their Saviour's precepts they obey,
And hasten to the judgment day.*

9
August

*Who gave himself
for our sins, that
he might deliver
us from this
present evil world,
according to the
will of God and
our Father:*

Galatians 1:4

THE whole world lieth in the wicked one, as the devoted child in the arms of Moloch; or as the putrid corpse in the grave, over which is written, "HERE LIETH." We were once dead in sin, and buried in corruption, but Jesus Christ interfered for us. "He gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from the present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father." The world is evil, therefore we are delivered from it. Jesus died to deliver us from its *spirit*, by which we are influenced in a

state of nature; from the *love* of the world, which is enmity with God; from seeking *satisfaction* in the world, which is idolatry; from its fearful *doom*, which is eternal destruction. He intended to raise us above it, in our desires and pursuits; to lead us through it, and glorify us beyond it. Let us inquire this morning, Are we of the world, or are we delivered from it? Have we another spirit in us? Are we become dead to the world by fellowship with Christ in His death? Is Jesus loved, praised, and obeyed, out of gratitude for delivering us?

*Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee;
Naked, poor, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shalt be:
Thou hast my Deliverer been,
I have Thy salvation seen.*

THE prayer of faith is generally short, and always to the point. It takes the soul and places it before God, in its real state and true character. It pleads with Him for what is really needed, what must be had. The believer often needs deliverance, and faith cries to God for it. His language is, "O Lord, I beseech Thee, deliver my soul from doubts and fears, which continually beset me; from a spirit of bondage, which would daily entangle me; from Satan who worries, harasses, and hinders me; from THE sin which so easily besets me; from men who would injure or mislead me; from my own feelings, which daily burden me." Thus the Lord is acknowledged as the great Deliverer; our own inability is practically confessed; it is evident our trials and troubles are sanctified; the legitimate tendency of grace is discovered by the earnestness, simplicity, importunity, and success of our prayers. Be this our daily cry until deliverance be no longer needed; for our God says, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble, I WILL DELIVER THEE."

*Then called I upon
the name of the
LORD; O LORD,
I beseech thee,
deliver my soul.*

Psalm 116:4

*Oh, for that tenderness of heart
Which bows before the Lord,
Acknowledges how just Thou art,
And trembles at Thy word!
Saviour, to me in pity give
The pledge Thou wilt at last receive.*

11 August

*Hearken, my
beloved brethren,
Hath not God
chosen the poor
of this world rich
in faith, and heirs
of the kingdom
which he hath
promised to them
that love him?
James 2:5*

HE raised the poor from the dust, and the beggar from the dunghill; such were we by nature, but through rich grace we shall inherit the throne of glory. He has prepared for us, promised to us, and will bestow upon us a KINGDOM. A kingdom in which His glory will be seen, felt, and enjoyed forever. In which all His riches of grace, mercy, and glory will be displayed. In which peace, joy, and pleasure will eternally reign. A kingdom which cannot be moved, and will never know a change. But who are

the acknowledged heirs? The poor of this world, who are poor in spirit. The rich in faith, who believe in God, in Jesus, who exercise faith on the precious promises, and whose faith is proved to be good by the works they produce. Those who love God, from a knowledge of His love to them, and as the effect of His love being shed abroad in their hearts, by the Holy Ghost. Am I an heir? Are you, my friend? If so, rejoice and be exceeding glad; imitate those who through faith and patience now inherit the promises, and the end will crown the whole.

*There shall your eyes with rapture view
The glorious Friend who died for you;
That died to ransom, died to raise
To crowns of joy, and songs of praise:
Jesus, to Thee I breathe my prayer!
Reveal, confirm my interest there.*

WHEN the eyes of our understanding are opened by the Eternal Spirit, we begin to see out of darkness and obscurity; but our sight is imperfect, we have seen but little yet, there is much more behind to be revealed by-and-by. We shall see greater depths of sin in our nature, and greater depths of grace in the person of Christ; we shall have clearer evidences of interest in Jesus, and see more of His love to us. We shall experience the cleansing efficacy of His precious blood to a greater extent; and see the power of His arm displayed more visibly for our deliverance. We shall see more of the emptiness, vanity, and deceitfulness of the world; and have greater reason to rejoice that we are delivered from it. We shall see greater things in our Bibles, and feel ourselves under greater obligation to the Holy Spirit for His teaching. We shall see Christ descending, present things abolished, and the glories of eternity unfolding. Let us seek greater things, for Jesus has promised them; and daily pray "What I know not teach Thou me."

*Jesus answered
and said unto him,
Because I said
unto thee, I saw
thee under the
fig tree, believest
thou? thou shalt
see greater things
than these.*

John 1:50

*O Lord, how little do we know;
How little of Thy presence feel;
While we continue here below,
And in these earthly houses dwell!
When wilt Thou take us up above,
To see Thy face without a cloud?*

13
August

*His name shall
endure for ever:
his name shall
be continued as
long as the sun:
and men shall be
blessed in him: all
nations shall call
him blessed.*

Psalm 72:17

EVERYTHING out of Christ is under the curse; all blessings are treasured up in Him, and can only be received and enjoyed by union to and communion with Him. If in Him, He is made of God unto us, wisdom, righteousness, strength, sanctification, and redemption; if separate from Him, His work will profit us nothing. How important then is union to Jesus! All who are in Him are blessed with the favour of God, which compasses them as a shield; with access to God, by the Spirit, as to a kind and indulgent Father; with the friendship of God;

He calls them not servants but friends, and His friendship is a good fortune; with justification before God, as the great Lawgiver and Judge of all; with sanctification by God, to the praise, honour, and glory of His grace; and ultimately they will be glorified with God through eternal ages. All things are theirs, and for them is laid up a crown of righteousness, which fadeth not away; a treasure in heaven which corrupteth not, and where thieves cannot steal. Oh, blessed state! Oh, happy persons! But this honour have all the saints.

*Blessings abound where Jesus reigns:
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest:
In Him the tribes of Adam boast,
More blessings than their father lost.*

CIRCUMSTANCES sometimes regulate duties. The Lord's people have to pass through many changes; they are strangers and pilgrims here. Sometimes prosperity calls for rejoicing, and sometimes adversity calls for consideration. If prayer appears to be shut out, our petitions seem to be denied, and we cannot enjoy the life and power of religion; it is the day of adversity. If providence frowns, and the heart contracts and becomes hard, it is a day of adversity; now we should consider, Is there not a CAUSE? What

In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

Ecclesiastes 7:14

is it? Has sin been indulged? or mercy slighted? or duty neglected? or self deified? What is the INTENTION? Is it to correct, reprove, and restore us? How should we now ACT? Let us take shame to ourselves; justify our God; confess sin; lament over our folly; crave pardon; and plead for restoration. It is our comfort to know that the Lord calls us to return, declares He is ready to forgive, promises a gracious reception, and assures us He will heal our backslidings and love us freely. Let us, believing, look for His blessing.

*Of my extreme distresses
The author is the Lord:
Whate'er His wisdom pleases,
His name be still adored.
If still He prove my patience
And to the utmost prove,
Yet all His dispensations
Are faithfulness and love.*

*For the needy
shall not always
be forgotten: the
expectation of
the poor shall not
perish for ever.*

Psalm 9:18

THE promises of God raise the expectation of His people, and His providence tries it; what the promise has engaged to give, providence seems loath to bestow. But God is faithful. We may expect the Lord to appear for us in every trouble, if our faith is fixed on His word, and prayer is daily sent up to His throne. We may expect to be supported under all our trials, and to be supplied with all necessary good, if we are making God our portion, and seeking to glorify Him. We may expect to be pardoned, justified, and saved; if

we believe with the heart, confess with the mouth, and walk according to our profession. God notices our expectations, Jesus pleads that they may be realized; and nothing shall be able to turn away the bountiful hand of our God. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. Our fears may be strong, and our doubts may be many; but our security is in the character, word, and work of our God and Saviour. He will not fail us, nor forsake us, until He hath done all which He hath spoken to us of.

*Soon the delightful day will come,
When my dear Lord will bring me home,
And I shall see His face;
Then, with my Saviour, Brother, Friend,
A blest eternity I'll spend,
Triumphant in His grace.*

HE is the great author of your being, and the only proper object of your faith, fear, and worship. Remember the promises He has made, the deliverances He has wrought, the blessings He has conferred, the invitations He has given, and the relations He now fills. Remember Him in calamity, to trust Him; in prosperity, to praise Him; in danger, to call upon Him; in difficulty, to expect His interference. Remember to obey His commands; to attend to His exhortations; to keep His company; to seek His blessing; and to aim at His glory in all you do. Remember Him, for it is your duty; it is your privilege. Remember Him, in order to strengthen your faith; as an antidote to your fears; as a source of encouragement to your souls; and as a preventative to sin. Remember He is holy, just, and good; and He will be glorified in all them that draw nigh unto Him. Whatever or whoever you forget, always "REMEMBER THE LORD." He is your life, your strength, your food, your portion, your God, your all. Remember Him, for He never forgets you; cleave to Him, for He will never forsake you.

And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

Nehemiah 4:14

*Oh, may I still from sin depart!
A wise and understanding heart,
Jesus, to me be given!
And let me through Thy Spirit know,
To glorify my God below,
And find my way to heaven.*

*For thus saith the
Lord GOD, the
Holy One of Israel;
In returning and
rest shall ye be
saved; in quietness
and in confidence
shall be your
strength: and ye
would not.*

Isaiah 30:15

QUIETNESS is expressive of submission to the holy will of God, and supposes a waiting upon Him as directed by His word. It is the believer's duty to be silent before God while He is working, being assured that his best interests are secured by the promises, and that all things will be made plain by-and-bye. He should confide in the Lord's word; and rely on the Lord's wisdom, love, and ability. Our confidence must arise from God's word, a review of His dealings with His people, and the relation in which

He stands to us. We may be confident, for God who has spoken is true, and hath confirmed His word in every generation. Quietly confiding in God will give us strength; we then put His love and faithfulness to the trial; we honour Him by our confidence, and He will honour us by appearing for us. Let us endeavour to be STILL, to be SILENT before Him, when He is raised up out of His holy habitation. Let us wait for Him, for it is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. Beware of complaining or replying against God.

*When, my Saviour, shall I be
Totally resigned to Thee?
Poor and vile in my own eyes,
Only in Thy wisdom wise,
Only guided in Thy light,
Only mighty in Thy might!*

REAL prayer is calling upon God. He is our Father; we are His children. We have nothing; He has all things to bestow, and is willing to give them. From a sense of need, we call on the Lord for a supply; from a sense of weakness, we call on Him for strength; from a sense of guilt, we call on Him for pardon. Being diseased, we cry for health; being troubled, for comfort and peace; being in distress, for relief and deliverance. We go out of self to Jesus, accepting His invitation, to plead His promise, and find Him faithful.

*The LORD is nigh
unto all them that
call upon him, to
all that call upon
him in truth.*

Psalm 145:18

Our God is always near the praying soul, not merely as the omnipresent Jehovah, but as our faithful Friend. He is near us, lovingly to listen to what we have to lay before Him; mercifully to relieve our miseries, be they what they may; graciously to help in every difficulty or danger. Beloved, our God is near us. He is attentive to us this morning; let us call upon Him in spirit and in truth. Let us lay all our concerns before Him; He loves to listen to the often-told tale; He has patience with us, blessings for us, and will do us good.

*O Lord, each day renew my strength,
And let me see Thy face at length,
With all Thy people yonder;
With them in heaven Thy love declare,
And sing Thy praise forever there,
With gratitude and wonder.*

And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

Exodus 33:14

So the Lord promised Moses, and so He has promised us. Let us never venture anywhere, if we have reason to think the Lord will not favour us with His presence there. The Lord's presence produces holiness, imparts power, fires with zeal, brings into union, and often fills with comfort, joy, and peace. His presence is our glory, and it will yield us support under losses, crosses, and bereavements. Let us plead for the Lord's presence to go with us; let us expect it; let us not be satisfied with anything else. He went with Moses, and he persevered;

with Joshua, and he conquered; with David, and he reached the throne; with Paul, and he was more than a conqueror. Nothing can be a substitute for the Lord's presence; and as it is so graciously promised, let us not attempt to find a substitute, but daily cry, "IF THY PRESENCE GO NOT WITH ME, CARRY ME NOT UP HENCE." Jesus has said, "If a man love Me, he will keep My words; and My Father will love him, and WE will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

*O Lord, be ever near us,
Fix in our hearts Thy home,
By Thine appearing cheer us,
And let Thy kingdom come:
Fulfil our expectation,
And give our souls to prove,
Thine uttermost salvation,
Thine everlasting love.*

ALL who know the Lord love Him, and none can love Him until taught by His Spirit. If we know God in Christ as our covenant God, and enjoy our interest in Him, we shall love Him supremely, above our tranquillity, natural relations, earthly possessions, gifts and reputation. We discover in Him, greater glory, more real worth, pre-eminent beauty, and superior excellence. Those who love Him are preserved by Him. He preserves them in trouble, from its natural effects; in the world, from its spirit and doom; from enemies, evils, and wrath. His loving-kindness and truth will continually preserve them; yea, He will preserve them unto His kingdom and glory. But He preserves us in the use of means; let us therefore walk before Him, confide in Him; wait upon Him, and often demand of our hearts, Do we love the Lord? Are we desiring to love Him? Are we preserved from sin, the world, and all evil? If so, we must ascribe it to free and sovereign grace; if not, let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord. He bids, He exhorts us to come.

*The LORD
preserveth all
them that love
him: but all the
wicked will he
destroy.*

Psalm 145:20

*Infinite grace! almighty charms!
Stand in amaze, ye rolling skies!
Jesus, the God, extends His arms—
Hangs on the cross of love, and dies,
Sure I must love; my passions move:
This heart shall yield to death or love.*

21
August

*And shall not
God avenge his
own elect, which
cry day and night
unto him, though
he bear long with
them?*

Luke 18:7

THE Lord's people are often oppressed, they are tempted to be revengeful, but our God says, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay." Under man's wrath, remember you are the objects of the Lord's love; when men oppress you, rest assured that God will befriend you. Carry your case to Him, spread the whole of the matter before Him; plead with Him, and then rest assured that He will appear for you. The master will interfere for a servant he values; the parent for the child he loves; and the husband for

the bride he has chosen: "and shall not God avenge His own elect? I tell you He will avenge them speedily." Cry to Him day and night, look to no other quarter for relief or deliverance; never encourage any unholy feelings, but pray for grace to imitate your insulted, persecuted, and crucified Lord. Consider Him who endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be weary and faint in your minds. He will tread all your enemies under His feet shortly. He is able to avenge you, and His word is passed.

*Shall we distrust our faithful God
Or question His almighty power,
Because He doth not our desires
Accomplish in a little hour?
He will avenge His own elect,
And evermore His saints protect.*

WHAT a comfortable promise is this to the poor, weak, and timid Christian; he has not attained to a state of assurance, but he is seeking the Lord, and here his God promises him that he shall not want any good thing. He feels that he has no good thing in him, finds he can do no good thing of himself, fears that good will never be enjoyed by him; but his God assures him, no good thing shall be withheld from him. His God will pardon his sin, justify his person, strengthen his soul, supply his needs, comfort his heart, conquer his foes, sanctify his trials, and give him victory over death. He shall not want long, if God is able to supply; he cannot be neglected, if our God is true; he shall receive all that is good, and when, and as it will do him most good. Let us therefore seek the Lord, and rest assured that He will withhold from us no good thing. The silver and the gold are His, and He says, "If ye, being evil, know how to give good things unto your children, HOW MUCH MORE shall your heavenly Father give good things to them that ask Him."

The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

Psalm 34:10

*If earthly parents hear
Their children when they cry,
If they with love sincere
Their children's wants supply,
Much more will God His love display,
And answer when His children pray.*

23
August

*Then shall the
earth yield her
increase; and
God, even our
own God, shall
bless us.*

Psalm 67:6

HE has pledged Himself to do so in His word, and He delights to make good His promise. He is our God by covenant; by a spiritual birth; through Christ Jesus; and at our own desire, request, and consent. He is the great God, who fills heaven and earth; the all-sufficient God, who has all resources in Himself; the unchanging God, who is eternally the same. He espouseth the quarrel of His people, He dignifies and ennobles them, and proves Himself gracious and merciful unto them. He blesseth them indeed;

and if others curse, He turneth the curse into a blessing. We may rest fully assured of this pleasing fact, "GOD, EVEN OUR OWN GOD, WILL BLESS US." He has done so in Christ before time, He has promised to do so through time, and when time shall be no more. He will bless us in temporals and spirituals, He will bless us wherever we are. Let us believe the fact, and plead for its realization in our experience; this will embolden us in danger, fortify us against fear, and keep us in perfect peace. Let us trust in Him, and He will bless us; and so shall we rejoice in Him.

*Rise, my soul, with ardour rise!
Breathe thy wishes to the skies!
Freely pour out all thy mind,
Seek, and thou art sure to find;
Ready art thou to receive,
Readier is thy God to give.*

WHEN a beast was set apart for sacrifice, it was considered sacred, and was carefully preserved from all injury. The Christian is devoted; he is intended for the ALTAR, his body as well as his soul, and he is required to present it to God holy, acceptable, as a reasonable service. It is not to be defiled by fornication, by intoxication, by gluttony, by filth, by pride; he is to look upon it as the Lord's, bought with the blood of Jesus, consecrated as the temple of the Holy Ghost, set apart to be the habitation of a Holy God. The believer's body should not be united by marriage to an unbeliever; this is SACRILEGE, for the vessel is holy; it is REBELLION, for it is plainly and positively forbidden; it is SINNING WILFULLY, and provoking the eyes of divine holiness. It is offering INSULT to the God of love, and calling upon Him to vindicate His injured mercy. Believer, present thy body daily to God, washed in pure water; that is, cleansed from defilement by observing His word; never call that common which God has consecrated, or debase that which He has devoted to Himself.

*I beseech you
therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of
God, that ye
present your
bodies a living
sacrifice, holy,
acceptable unto
God, which is your
reasonable service.*

Romans 12:1

*Lord, it is but just and right,
That I should be wholly thine;
Only in Thy will delight,
In Thy blessed service join:
Now my sacrifice receive,
Give me grace to Thee to live.*

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
Romans 8:26

WE are compassed with infirmities; we know but little of ourselves; we know not what would be best for us; we know not what is coming upon us; we know not Satan's position or design; we know but little of God's provision or intention, we are as weak as we are ignorant; weak to withstand evil; weak to perform good; weak to obtain benefits; our infirmities, many of them are constitutional, arising from our tempers and dispositions; from bodily ailments; and from the smallness of

our capacities. But though thus infirm, Jesus is touched with a sympathetic feeling for us; and the Holy Spirit is given to assist us. He teaches us what we want; leads us to the precious promises; furnishes us with the prevailing plea; excites us to pray, and assists us in prayer. He produces the ardent desire; bestows the wrestling power; and warms the affections while pleading; gives us such a keen sense of what we need, and such an ardent desire after it, that unutterable groans are begotten, to which God attends. Let us daily seek the Spirit's power to help.

*Spirit of interceding grace,
I know not how or what to pray;
Relieve my utter helplessness,
Thy power into my heart convey;
That God, acknowledging my groan,
May answer, in my prayers, His own.*

NEVER forget that Jesus is our BROTHER, and that He has devoted all His riches to us, so that the riches of Jesus are the Christian's fortune. "Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich." He employed all He possessed for our redemption, sanctification, and salvation; and now, at the right hand of the Majesty on high, He giveth liberally, and upbraideth not. He has riches of grace; riches of mercy; and riches of glory. The residue of the Spirit is with Him. He has promised largely; He has proved His readiness to bestow, in the most wonderful way; let us therefore expect great things from Him, for He has UNSEARCHABLE RICHES. O believer, look not at thy poverty, at thy wants, or thy circumstances; but look at Jesus; all things are under His feet, all blessings are at His disposal, and His heart is set upon thee to do thee good! He will supply all thy needs while on earth, and afterwards receive thee to glory. My soul, thy Jesus has all thou needest: therefore look to Him, and Him alone!

Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Ephesians 3:8

*Possessing Christ, I all possess,
Strength, wisdom, sanctifying grace,
And righteousness complete:
Bold, in His name, I dare draw nigh,
Before the Ruler of the sky,
And all His justice meet.*

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Romans 7:4

WITHOUT union to Christ, there can be no good works; and until we are dead to the law we cannot be married to Christ. We must see that there is neither help nor hope for us in any law that God has given; that only grace can save us, before we shall be willing to take Christ as God has set Him forth in the everlasting gospel. Being married to Christ, we renounce our own name and take His; we live upon His fullness, walk by His word, and aim to please Him in all things. By His grace we perform good works;

and through His merit, and His name, they are accepted as evidences of our love, proofs of our sanctification, and fruits of our oneness with Him. He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him; and it becomes his meat and drink to do the will of God. Without union to Christ we can do nothing acceptable to God; being married to Him, our poor, imperfect, and (in themselves) worthless performances, are acceptable and well-pleasing to God. NO UNION NO FRUIT, NO FRUIT NO UNION. Beloved, are we bringing forth fruit unto God? Do we bring forth much fruit? Herein is our Father glorified, that we bear much fruit.

*Blest Jesus, animate my heart;
Let Thy rich grace abound;
So, to the honour of Thy name,
Shall plenteous fruit be found.*

*Being justified
freely by his
grace through
the redemption
that is in Christ
Jesus:*

Romans 3:24

IT was a solemn question which was proposed in the days of old, "How can man be just with God?" Man is without righteousness, he is chargeable with many crimes; he is brought in guilty, and condemned by God's holy law; and he has no excuse to make. His mouth is stopped. We feel this to be our situation by nature. But the Lord who is our Judge, hath devised a way by which He can be just and yet justify us. **IT IS BY GRACE.** He justifies, or acquits us from all charges; pronounces us righteous; accepts us; and introduces us into His favour, friendship, and fellowship, **FREELY**, without anything being done or suffered by us. **HE PRESENTS US** with the work of Jesus, by which all our debts are paid; our righteousness is wrought out; the law and government of God are honoured; and a good title to eternal life is made out; we **RECEIVE** this work by faith, which He also bestows, and we are "**JUSTIFIED FROM ALL THINGS.**" Not one charge remains. There is no condemnation. But we are justified freely by grace without the works of the law.

*Slain in the guilty sinner's stead,
Jesus, Thy righteousness I plead,
And Thine atoning blood:
That righteousness my robe shall be;
Thy merit shall avail for me,
And bring me near to God.*

*While the
bridegroom
tarried, they all
slumbered and
slept.*

Matthew 25:5

WHEN we think of the warnings Jesus has given, the promises He has made, and the precepts He has delivered, we are ready to conclude that His people must be always active and always happy. But when we look around us, or when we look at our own course, we are obliged to lament that this is not the case. Jesus is gone to receive a kingdom and to return; He has given talents to His servants, and TO EVERY MAN HIS WORK, and commanded the porter to watch. But it is said of the wise, as well as the

foolish virgins, "THEY ALL SLUMBERED AND SLEPT." Are we awake to our duties, to our privileges, to our expectations? Are we looking, longing, and preparing for the coming of Jesus? Are we sober and vigilant, because our adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, is going about seeking whom he may devour? Are we active for God? Are we hasting home? Do we pass the time of our sojourning here in fear? Is the talent in the NAPKIN, or at the BANK? Let us not sleep as do others, but let us watch and be sober. Behold the Judge standeth before the door. It is high time to awake out of sleep.

*He comes, He comes to call
The nations to His bar;
And take to glory all
Who meet for glory are:
Make ready for your full reward;
Go forth with joy to meet your Lord.*

IF we sin, our heavenly Father will correct us, in order to reclaim us; His strokes often fall heavy, and the effects remain for a long time. But He will not always chide; when we repent and confess, He pardons and restores. His anger is but for a moment; but His mercy is everlasting. He loves when He frowns, and pities while He reproveth. "The Lord is gracious, full of compassion, and plenteous in mercy; He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities, for as the heaven is high above the earth, SO GREAT is His mercy toward them that fear Him." Let us not therefore DESPISE the chastening of the Lord, nor FAINT when we are rebuked of Him; for whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. In a little wrath He may hide His face from us for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will He have mercy on us, and prove Himself our Redeemer. His frowns are transient, but His love is everlasting. His strokes are few and light, but He daily loadeth us with benefits; and crowns the year with His bounty.

*He will not
always chide:
neither will he
keep his anger
for ever.*

Psalm 103:9

*God will not always chide;
And when His strokes are felt,
His strokes are fewer than our crimes
And lighter than our guilt:
He chides us with a Father's heart,
That we from Him may not depart.*

31
August

*The LORD is
good unto them
that wait for him,
to the soul that
seeketh him.*

Lamentations 3:25

THE Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works; but He is especially benevolent, kind, and attentive to the praying, waiting soul. He has prepared of His goodness for the poor, and His goodness is ever great towards us. He bids us ask, promises to bestow, makes us wait, and then blesses us indeed. We have proved Him to be good; but if we had more faith in Him, and were more earnest with Him, we should see and enjoy His goodness in a much greater degree. He delivered David from the

horrible pit; Jeremiah from the dungeon; Daniel from the lions; Peter from the waves; and Paul from the forty Jews. "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him." He will renew our strength, illumine our path, take vengeance on our foes, and introduce us into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. Let us wait for Him in faith, look for Him in hope, and plead with Him to work in us all the good pleasure of His will, and the work of faith with power. Wait for the Lord, and prove Him good.

*Jesus, preserve my soul from sin,
Nor let me faint for want of Thee;
I'll wait till Thou appear within,
And plant Thy heavenly love in me;
In every soul that waits for Thee,
Thou wilt Thy goodness, Lord, display.*

THE Lord Jesus Christ is anointed and appointed to deliver His people whenever they need His aid; for this purpose all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are stored in Him, authority over all flesh is given to Him, and every attribute of Deity can be exerted by Him. We are not left to the mercy of men, we are not expected to deliver ourselves, but we are to look to Jesus, who is glorified in delivering us from all evil, and preserving us to His eternal kingdom and glory. To Him we are to repair in every trial, from Him we are to expect deliverance in every danger; He is in office on purpose to hear us, appear for us, and bless us. He delivers in temporals as well as in spirituals, from internal and external foes. Let us remember this title of our beloved Lord, and make use of Him as the DELIVERER, in preference to every other; apply to Him first in every difficulty, rely on Him with confidence in every trial, and He will deliver you until deliverance is no longer required. "He will deliver thee in six troubles, and in seven shall no evil touch thee."

And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Romans 11:26

*Why should His people now be sad?
None have such reason to be glad
As those redeemed to God;
Jesus the mighty Savior lives,
To them eternal life He gives,
The purchase of His blood.*

2
September

*Well; because
of unbelief they
were broken off,
and thou standest
by faith. Be not
highminded, but
fear:*

Romans 11:20

BELIEVERS are sometimes tempted to think more highly of themselves than they ought to think; they forget that they are indebted to the free, sovereign, and distinguishing grace of God, for all the difference there is between them and the vilest of the vile. They should consider they are still weak, and liable to overcome; foolish, and prone to wander; sinful, and easily wrought upon; that Satan is strong and determined; subtle and insinuating; malicious and designing; active and persevering; that the world is alluring and ensnaring, treacherous

and vain, attracting and deceitful; and this would preserve them from being too secure. A high-minded Christian is sure to be unfruitful, and is generally left to fall. Therefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed. David fell, Peter fell, and thousands beside have fallen; and they exhort us with groans, sighs, and tears, "BE NOT HIGH-MINDED, BUT FEAR." "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Let us cultivate humility of mind, and habitual dependance upon God; so shall we be safe, holy, and happy.

*Jesus, if Thou withdraw Thy hand,
That moment sees me fall;
Oh, may I ne'er on self depend,
But look to Thee for all:
Lead me in all Thy righteous ways,
Make plain Thy path before Thy face.*

SO Paul assured believers at Philippi, and so he assures us. They had many wants, so have we; they were dependant on God, and so are we. The Lord engaged to supply them, and He is engaged to supply us. The Lord was faithful to them, and He will be faithful to us. His absolute promises are our invaluable treasure; His unchangeableness is our immutable security. While Jehovah lives we cannot be friendless, we shall never be left to want; and at last we shall be able to testify, "Not one thing hath failed of all that the Lord our God hath promised." We can this morning rejoice, and say, "The Lord hath blessed me hitherto. Thou has dealt well with Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word." Our wants should remind us of God's promises; the promises should be used to quell our fears, and comfort our hearts. We know not what a day will bring forth; but we know that "our God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Let this banish care, and let us rejoice in the Lord as our PROVIDER.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

*In Jesus is our store,
Grace issues from His throne;
Whoever says, "I want no more"
Confesses he has none:
But they who come to be supplied,
Will find Jehovah doth provide.*

4
September

*In whom ye also
trusted, after that
ye heard the word
of truth, the gospel
of your salvation:
in whom also after
that ye believed, ye
were sealed with
that holy Spirit of
promise,*

Ephesians 1:13

OUR salvation is our deliverance from sin, the curse, and the wrath of God; this was impossible to man, but God sent His own Son in our nature, to save us freely, fully and eternally. The gospel is the "GOOD NEWS OF OUR SALVATION". It is sent to inform us that God is love; that grace reigns; that heaven is opened; that provision is made for our guilt, weakness, and fears; that God waits to receive us, bless us, and glorify us with Himself forever. It sets before us all Christ has done; all He possesses; and invites us to come and receive, to use and be

happy. It requires nothing of us to entitle us, it presents all it has, and gives it freely to the poor, the halt, the maimed, and the blind. It has all our misery requires, all our wants demand; we cannot wish for more than it brings; it is full of grace and full of glory. Precious gospel! Glorious news! May we receive it, believe it, act upon it daily, and so be happy. It is intended to FILL US with joy and peace in believing, to lead us to abound in hope; and to make us more than conquerors over despondency, doubt, and fear.

*For you the purple current flowed,
In pardons from His wounded side;
Languished for you the eternal God
For you the Prince of glory died:
Believe, and all your sins forgiven;
Only believe, and yours is heaven.*

THE strongest believer is subject to fears, and may at times be strongly tempted to doubt, not only all that God has done for him, but his right and title to every promise in God's Book; at such times it is well to have recourse to those wells, from which we have drawn the choicest consolation in former times; and the words of Jesus which we have chosen for this day's portion stand foremost. Here He tells us, with peculiar tenderness and love, that He has made up His mind, that He will on no account refuse to receive the coming sinner, or allow him to be driven from His throne; neither the nature nor number of his transgressions, his age or circumstances, shall be found sufficient to procure him a rejection. His arms and His heart are open, He stands and calls us to Him, giving us this assurance, "I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT." Nearly two thousand years have rolled away since He spake the words: millions of sinners of every clime and character have made application, and all have found Him faithful. Let us not then grieve His love, and distress our own souls, by doubts and fears, but trust His word.

*All that the Father
giveth me shall
come to me; and
him that cometh
to me I will in no
wise cast out.*

John 6:37

*When, gracious Lord, when shall it be,
That I shall find my all in Thee?
The fulness of Thy promise prove,
The seal of Thine eternal love?
Ah! wherefore did I ever doubt!
Thou will in no wise cast me out.*

6
September

*I will heal their
backsliding, I will
love them freely:
for mine anger is
turned away from
him.*

Hosea 14:4

THE Lord loves His people naturally, as parents love their children; freely, without any cause whatever in them. He looks for nothing in them to move Him to love; nor will He allow anything in them to prevent His love. He loves them as vessels of mercy; disciples of Jesus; as bearing His image, His name, and His nature. His love to them is infinite, fruitful, and unchangeable. He will love them, though they deserve hatred, merit wrath, and may be justly sentence to perdition. Beloved, let us never look

into ourselves to find out the cause of God's love; it is in Him, not in us; but let us believe Him when He says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Let us plead with Him, encouraged by the words of Jesus, "The Father Himself loveth you." Let us rejoice before Him, and praise Him for distinguishing grace. If He will love, who shall forbid Him? If He will love us, who shall dispute with Him? If He loves us, as His word testifies He does, who shall estimate the honor, the advantage, or the happiness, which will eternally flow from His love? All glory to free grace.

*O Jesus, full of truth and grace,
More full of grace than I of sin;
Yet once again I seek Thy face;
Open thine arms and take me in:
And freely my backslidings heal,
And love the faithless sinner still.*

THE believer cannot always rejoice in possession, for he appears stripped of everything; but he may rejoice in hope even then. He is warranted to hope for eternal life; for righteousness by faith, that God may be magnified in his body, by life or by death; for the resurrection of the body, and its reunion with the soul; for the appearing of his beloved Savior, and complete salvation through Him. The hope which is laid up for him in heaven, of which the gospel now informs him—a weight of glory, a crown of righteousness, and an eternal inheritance, are in reserve for him; and in hope of these he may rejoice. They are set before him to excite desire, produce courage, prevent despondency, and fill with joy. They are freely given, plainly promised, and carefully preserved; therefore we shall never be ashamed of our hope. Let us not yield to our gloomy feelings, or to distressing forebodings; but let us lift up our heads, rejoicing that we shall so soon be made partakers of our hope. Let us hope in God, and daily praise Him more and more; making use of hope as the anchor of the soul, sure and steadfast.

*Rejoicing in
hope; patient
in tribulation;
continuing instant
in prayer;*

Romans 12:12

*Come, Lord, and help me to rejoice,
In hope that I shall hear Thy voice,
Shall one day see my God;
Shall cease from all my painful strife,
Handle and taste the word of life,
And feel the sprinkled blood.*

8
September

*The grass
withereth, the
flower fadeth: but
the word of our
God shall stand
for ever.*

Isaiah 40:8

THE word of our God is like His nature, immutably the same; He saith, "My covenant will I not break, nor ALTER the thing that is gone out of my mouth." Believer, this is thy comfort; every promise is confirmed and shall be fulfilled. But what hath He said? He hath said, "Though your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them ALL. No weapon formed against thee shall prosper. I will strengthen thee, I will help thee. I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. No

good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." All that He saith cometh surely to pass. Not one jot or tittle can fail. He never spake hastily, insincerely, or unwisely; He has drawn His plan, given His word, and everything shall answer the end He had in view. Man may be disappointed, God cannot. Man may change his mind, or break his word, but God cannot. He abideth faithful, He cannot deny Himself. Trust, and be not afraid.

*The word of God shall still endure,
Faithful, immutable, and sure:
This solid rock shall never break,
Though earth should to her centre shake.
And while it stands we should not fear,
For all we need is promised there.*

OUR God has revealed Himself as the source, centre, and end of everything lovely. In Jesus He appears as the fairest among ten thousand, and the altogether lovely. The wealth of the universe is His. He is worthy of our highest love. He is all we could wish or desire. To possess Him is to be made for eternity. To have Him on our side is to be safe forever. But you may ask, What is His mind towards us? Emphatically, "GRACE". We have found favour in His eyes. He is the friend of penitent sinners. He loveth us with an infinite love. Do you doubt it? Read His word. Look at Calvary. Ask His people. Prove for yourselves. See what He has already done for us. Have we a being? He gave it. Have we a good hope? He bestowed it. Have we liberty? He bought it. Have we holiness? He wrought it. Consider what we may have been but for His grace. What we certainly should have been but for His salvation. What we are now, and what we shall be, as the effect of His love; and, "Oh, love the Lord, all ye His saints!" It is happiness! It is holiness! It is heaven!

*O love the LORD,
all ye his saints:
for the LORD
preserveth the
faithful, and
plentifully
rewardeth the
proud doer.*

Psalms 31:23

*Love all defects supplies,
Makes great obstructions small;
'Tis prayer; 'tis praise; 'tis sacrifice;
'Tis holiness; 'tis all!*

10
September

*To proclaim the
acceptable year of
the LORD, and the
day of vengeance
of our God; to
comfort all that
mourn;*

Isaiah 61:2

THE Lord's people are all mourners; grace sets and keeps them mourning over sin committed—depravity discovered—evidences needed—comforts forfeited and lost—apparent uselessness—the sins of others—the state of the church—or for the salvation of relatives and friends. We mourn after Jesus when we do not enjoy His love, and over Him as suffering when we do. But He has declared, “Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Jesus Himself is anointed and appointed to be our COMFORTER; He has given Him the tongue of the learned, that He may speak a word in season to them that are weary. He comforts us by pardoning our sins—subduing our iniquities—restoring the joys of our salvation—employing us in His service, and making us successful. He comforts us by His word, His servants, and His spirit. Admire the wisdom of God in the person appointed; the love of God in the work to which He is appointed; and the faithfulness of God in the perpetuity of His office. He ever lives, and lives to comfort us. Sweet view of Jesus, let us dwell upon it.

*Now in the Lord will I be glad,
And glory in His love;
In Him I'll joy, who will the God
Of my salvation prove:
My Saviour will my comfort be,
And set my soul from trouble free.*

THE great Physician presents Himself to us this morning, and He asks, "WILT THOU BE MADE WHOLE?" This is a searching question. Are you willing to be sanctified throughout? Willing that He should use what means He pleases, to conform you to Himself? Jesus is able to sanctify us wholly; the time of mercy is now; are we desirous of being healed? If so, let us put ourselves into His hands for the purpose; let us submit without hesitation to His terms; He performs the cure and receives all the glory.

When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

John 5:6

Let us not fancy that our case is hopeless, but let us look to Jesus, who will heal us, and heal us GRATIS. Open thy whole case to Him, consult Him daily, trust Him implicitly, and expect to shine before the Father's throne as a proof of His skill and kindness. No case can be desperate, while Jesus lives to heal; no sinner can be too poor, for He heals without money and without price. O Jesus! heal us this morning! Soften our hard hearts. Regulate our disorderly wills. Elevate our earthly affections. Fill us with holiness, fill us with love. We lie at Thy feet, and we trust in Thy word.

*Jesus, to Thee for help I call,
With pitying eye behold me fall,
Diseased at Thy throne;
Oh, heal my soul, remove my sin,
Now make the filthy leper clean,
Remove the heart of stone.*

12
September

*As the Father
knoweth me, even
so know I the
Father: and I lay
down my life for
the sheep.*

John 10:15

JESUS has a flock peculiarly His own; His Father chose them and gave them to Him; He received them and became their Shepherd; they wandered and were doomed to die, but He interfered and died for them. Oh, what an infinite love was the love of Jesus! He left His Father's bosom, left the songs of angels, left the throne of glory, and became a man, that He might become a Substitute. He offered Himself for them. His blood for theirs, His life for theirs. The offer was accepted, and He redeemed them

to God by His blood OUT of every nation, country, people, and tongue. They are doubly His, for He bought them when they had sold themselves, though before they were given Him by His Father in love. Herein is love; not that we loved Jesus, but that He loved us; and gave Himself to be the propitiation for our sins. Are we among His sheep? Are we like them? Do we love them, cleave to them, and walk with them? His sheep are gentle, harmless, peaceful, humble, dependant upon Him, and devoted to Him. They hear His voice, love His ways, and follow Him whithersoever He goeth.

*When the Shepherd's life was needful
To redeem the sheep from death,
Of their safety ever heedful.
Jesus yielded up His breath;
Faithful Shepherd!
Love like Thine no other hath.*

PATIENCE supposes trials, and troubles; it signifies to remain under a burden; it is opposed to fretfulness, murmuring, haste, and despondency; it produces submission, silence before God, and satisfaction with His dealings. The Holy Spirit produces this grace by means of afflictions; tribulation worketh patience. Every Christian is supposed to possess it, and is required to exercise it; yea, to let it have ITS PERFECT WORK. To this end let us study the examples of suffering and patience set before us in the Bible; let us take up and plead God's promises; let us remember that eternal love appointed every trial and trouble; that Jesus forewarned us of tribulation; that He has set us an example which we are required to imitate. Impatience dishonours our profession, and grieves the Spirit; patience benefits others, and is of great advantage to ourselves. Let us watch against temptations to impatience, and in patience possess our souls. So shall we fill up our character as Christians; complete the evidence of our sincerity; and prove our principles divine.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:4

*Dear Lord, though bitter is the cup
Thy gracious hand deals out to me,
I cheerfully would drink it up;—
That cannot hurt which comes from Thee.
The gift of patience, Lord, impart,
To calm and soothe my troubled heart.*

*And Jacob said, ...
Take, I pray thee,
my blessing that
is brought to thee;
because God hath
dealt graciously
with me, and
because I have
enough. And he
urged him, and he
took it.
Genesis 33:10,11*

POOOR Jacob left his father's house with only a staff, but he returned with two bands; so greatly had the Lord prospered him. But it was not his earthly possessions, but the kindness of his brother, and the grace of his God, which led him to exclaim, "I HAVE ENOUGH: OR, I HAVE ALL THINGS." Beloved, such language becomes us, as the objects of Jehovah's everlasting love; as interest in the well-ordered covenant; as entitled to all the promises; as invited to come to the throne of grace to receive all we

need; as directed to cast all our cares upon God; as having a warrant to expect every good thing on earth, and glory at the journey's end; ought we not to rejoice and shout, "I HAVE ENOUGH." Enough to make me happy; enough to make me holy. Enough to fill me with gratitude. Enough to fill angels with wonder, and devils with envy and vexation. O Jesus! to what a height hast Thou raised us! With what great, lasting, and glorious blessings hast Thou blessed us! Everlasting praises to Thy name, and eternal glory to Thy sovereign grace!

*Jesus is all I wish or want!
For Him I pray, I thirst, I pant:
Let others after earth aspire;
Christ is the treasure I desire;
He is an all-sufficient store;
Possess'd of Him, I wish no more.*

THE mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; only Jehovah's word, love, purposes, and perfections remain the same. The world passeth away, and the fashion of it; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. The end of all things is at hand; our labours will soon cease; our commerce terminate; our earthly relationships dissolve; our pleasures and sorrows in this world be concluded; the last sermon will soon be preached; and the last opportunity for us to do good will make its appearance.

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

1 Peter 4:7

The coming of the Son of God draweth nigh; let us be therefore preparing ourselves for so great, so solemn an event; and whenever tempted to trifle, to loiter, or to sin, let us remember "THE LORD IS AT HAND." Let us be sober, temperate in reference to the body; and let us think soberly of ourselves, of others, of everything around us. Let us not be rash or hasty, careless or indifferent; but let us speak and act soberly, as those that MUST give an account. He that shall come will come, and will not tarry; and He bids us be ready to receive Him with gladness, joy, and rejoicing.

*When Thou, my righteous Judge! shalt come
To fetch Thy ransom'd people home,
Shall I among them stand?
Shall such a worthless worm as I,
Who sometimes am afraid to die,
Be found at Thy right hand?*

*And even to your
old age I am he;
and even to hoar
hairs will I carry
you: I have made,
and I will bear;
even I will carry,
and will deliver
you.*

Isaiah 46:4

WHAT a sweet portion is this for the aged disciples of the Lord Jesus: heart and flesh may fail them, but God will not forsake them. Having begun a good work in them, He will carry it on. His gifts and callings are without repentance. He will be as kind, as tender, and as gracious at last as at the first. HE WILL CARRY US. The eternal God is our refuge, underneath are the everlasting arms. He will carry us safely through every danger, over every difficulty, into His presence and glory. Aged pilgrim, lean upon

thy God, look unto Him; and as the nurse carrieth the sucking child, so will thy God carry thee. He will prove Himself faithful to His word, and ultimately call you forth as a witness to the same. Fear not then in reference to the evening of old age: thy God will supply thee; He will support thee; and at last land thee safe where the storms of trouble never blow, where weakness and fears are never felt. "Take no anxious thought for the morrow; let the morrow take thought for the things of itself; sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." The promise of thy God cannot fail thee; He will guide thee and carry thee to His kingdom and glory. He says—

*E'en down to old age, all My people shall prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in My bosom be borne.*

FAITH has to fight with the deep and direful depravity of the heart; with error and superstition; with despondency and early prejudices; with unbelief and carnal reason; with Satan and the world at large. Faith has to fight for victory, for a crown, for God's glory. True faith fights in God's strength; with certainty, arising from the faithful promise; in holy fear, produced by grace taking advantage of our weakness; with courage; principally on the knees; and looking to the great Captain of our salvation, the end of the conflict, and the design of the combat. Believer, "FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH." Thy God bids thee. His promises are intended to encourage thee. The example of Jesus should animate thee. The coward's doom should alarm and instruct thee. The connection between conflict and conquest should impel thee. Jesus says, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:12

*Omnipotent Lord, my Saviour and King,
Thy succour afford, Thy righteousness bring;
On Thee, as my power, for strength I rely;
All evil before Thy presence shall fly:
Thy love everlasting will never depart,
Thy truth and Thy mercy shall rule in my heart.*

18
September

*When he maketh
inquisition
for blood, he
remembereth
them: he forgetteth
not the cry of the
humble.*

Psalm 9:12

THE humble grateful soul, may have anything from the Lord; so great is His love to them, and delight in them. He cries to the Lord to be kept from every false way; from falling into sin, and that he may be devoted entirely to the Lord's glory. He prays for his enemies, that they may be blessed; and for his friends, that they may be rewarded. His cry is constant; sincere; and hearty. But he is often tempted to think that because he is so unworthy, so insignificant, and so vile, God will not hear him, and especially when answers are delayed. But the cry of the humble cannot be forgotten. The Lord will not neglect or pass over such an one's prayer without notice; He will not despise, or contemn their petitions; but He will regard, attend to, and answer them. His wisdom will shine forth in the time when, and the means by which He answers their prayers; and He will get Himself a glorious name by their sanctification, salvation, and glorification. O believer, never harbour the thought that thy God will forget thy petitions!

*Friend of sinners, King of saints,
Answer my minutest wants!
Let my cries Thy throne assail,
Entering now within the veil;
Free my soul from guilt and shame,—
Lord, I ask in Jesus' name.*

WHAT a precious promise. How many of the Lord's people have been cheered and encouraged by it. Sin lives in us, works in us, fights in us, but it shall not reign. It may annoy, it shall not destroy. Its authority is destroyed by the Lord; its power is weakened by grace; it is warned to quit its old residence, and it will soon be ejected. We are not under the condemning power of the law, it is not our rule of justification, but we are under favour; God dealth with us as with children. He pardons, pities, and delivers us. He will not allow sin to hold us in perpetual bondage, or to condemn us at the last day; but He will set us at liberty, and justify us fully. The flesh will lust against the Spirit, corruption will rise and fight; but we shall be strengthened, assisted, and counselled until we finally overcome. Grace shall reign through righteousness unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord. The law will be honoured in our endless blessedness, and Jesus will be glorified in us throughout eternity. By grace we are saved.

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 6:14

*On such love, my soul, still ponder,
Love so great, so rich, so free!
Say, while lost in holy wonder,
Why, O Lord, such love to me?
Hallelujah!
Grace shall reign eternally.*

*I have gone
astray like a lost
sheep; seek thy
servant; for I do
not forget thy
commandments.*

Psalm 119:176

THIS is the humble confession of a man of God, and may not we adopt it as our own this morning? Have not we also gone astray? Does not this display our *weakness*? How weak to wander from so kind a Shepherd, so rich a pasture, so good a fold! Is it not a mark of *inattention*? Jesus hath warned and cautioned us against it in His word. Is it not a proof of our *ingratitude*? Oh, how ungrateful to forsake Him after so many favours, such rich blessings, such tokens of unmerited kindness! Does it not betray our *folly*?—to go from good to bad, from safety to danger, from plenty to want and wretchedness. Oh, the power of corruption! The deceitfulness of the human heart! Lord, seek Thy servants, for we do not forget Thy commandments. We smart for our folly; we grieve over our sin; we desire to return; restore us to Thy fold, to the enjoyment of Thy favour; and enable us to delight ourselves in Thy ways. Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep, bring us back from all our wanderings, and keep us near Thyself; for why should we turn aside from Thy flock and fold?

*Thou know'st the way to bring me back,
My fallen spirit to restore—
Oh, for Thy truth and mercy's sake,
Forgive, and bid me sin no more:
The ruins of my soul repair,
And make my heart a house of prayer.*

THIS is the testimony of a good man who had been in great danger. His heart was full of fears, and he gave up all for lost; but now he is recovered, and stands forth to acknowledge his mistake, and bear witness to this pleasing fact, that the Lord is ever ready to save His people in every time of trouble. The Lord hath saved us, and He will save us even to the end. He has power, and He will exert it; He has authority, and He will employ it; He has sympathy, and He will manifest it. He is a Saviour at hand and not afar off. He is ready and willing to deliver. Has He not proved Himself so in our past experience, and ought we not to trust Him for the future? Let us in every danger cry unto God to save us; wait upon Him in humble hope for the blessing; banish carnal and unscriptural fears far away; refuse to listen to Satan, sense, or unbelief; persevere in seeking until we obtain and enjoy the blessing. THE LORD IS READY TO SAVE US. Let us believe, hope, prove, and be happy. He will save, He will rest in His love, and joy over us with singing.

The LORD was ready to save me: therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the LORD.

Isaiah 38:20

*Salvation to God will I publish abroad,
Jehovah hath saved me through Jesus's blood;
The Lamb was once slain, but He liveth again,
And I with my Jesus forever shall reign:
Then filled with His love, in the regions above,
I shall never, no never from Jesus remove.*

*Be ye therefore
followers of God,
as dear children;*

Ephesians 5:1

THE Lord proposes Himself to us as our pattern, and He gives grace to every one who desires it to imitate Him. He exhorts us as His dear and tenderly beloved children, and in mildest strains proposeth Himself for our imitation. Let us imitate the Lord in the *world*, dealing justly, ever acting from holy principles, and by a righteous rule; adhering strictly to truth, for our God is THE GOD OF TRUTH: choosing our company, being only familiar with them who are familiar with God; and doing good to all, especially unto them who are of the

household of faith; for He causeth His sun to shine on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. Let us imitate Him in the *church*, cultivating a spirit of love to all saints, notwithstanding their infirmities, exercising forbearance, and pity; being slow to anger and ready to forgive; accepting the will for the deed, and being always ready to help in trouble and distress. Let us imitate our God, for He commands us; our relation to Him requires it; and our peace is involved in it.

*This will solve th' important question,
Whether thou art a real Christian,
Better than each golden dream;
Better far than lip expression,
Towering notions, great profession;
This will show your love to Him.*

THE Lord's people are often heavy laden, their burdens are heavy and their grief great; but the Lord kindly directs them to cast every burden upon Him, and promises to sustain them. Guilt in the conscience and a sense of sin in the soul, often prove an intolerable burden; but the Lord will remove it by the blood of His Son, and the whisper of His Spirit. The care of a family sinks the spirit, and fills with distress; but Jesus says, "Cast them all on Me." Losses, crosses, enemies, temptations, and the inward conflict, often burden the soul; but our God will sanctify them to us, sustain us through them, and deliver us out of them all. Our God has determined that we shall use Him, feel our dependance upon Him, and glory only in Him. Believer, He will sustain thee by speaking peace to thy troubled heart; by enabling you to leave your intricate affairs in His hands; by strengthening you with strength in your soul; and by enabling you to contrast the present with the future. Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory. O Jesus, teach me to bring every burden to Thy feet and to cast every care upon Thee!

*Cast thy burden
upon the LORD,
and he shall
sustain thee: he
shall never suffer
the righteous to be
moved.*

Psalm 55:22

*Thou, O Lord, in tender love,
Wilt all my burdens bear!
Lift my heart to things above,
And fix it ever there!*

And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

Genesis 22:14

JEHOVAH has provided supplies for His people. He arranges the bestowment of them, and hears and answers prayer for them. He may allow them to come into trials, dangers, and troubles; but "in the mount the Lord will be seen," He will show Himself as rigidly faithful to His word; as kind and merciful in all His dealings; as attentive to the wants and wishes of His people; as ready to supply them, and display His love and power in delivering them. In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen that Satan is a liar; that our fears were all groundless;

that unbelief is a great sin; that prayer shall surely be answered; that faith and hope shall not be disappointed; that Jesus is touched with the feeling of our infirmities; and that none shall be ashamed who trust in, wait for, and obey the commands of the Most High God. Beloved, we have seen the Lord in the mount of trial, we have found it turned into the mount of mercy, and we shall see Him on the mount of glory.

*'Tis in the mount the Lord is seen;
And all His saints shall surely find,
Though clouds and darkness intervene,
He still is gracious, still is kind.
Yes, in the mount, the Lord makes bare
His mighty, His delivering power;
Displays a Father's tender care,
In the most trying, darkest hour;*

BELOVED, let us inquire what do we think of Jesus this morning? What do we think of His divinity, as one with the Father? Of His humanity, as one with us? Of His complex person, as God and man in one Christ? What think we of His one sacrifice for sin? What think we of His grace as displayed in the whole work of our redemption? What think we of His word as the ground of our hope, the source of our comfort, and the rule of our lives? What think we of His kingdom? What think we of His coming? How do we think of Jesus?

Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David.

Matthew 22:42

Do we think of Him frequently, as of a subject full of pleasure? naturally, as we do of refreshing food? pleasantly, as of choice and delightful music? Or, only seldom, and then with gloom, or without love and ardent desire? What does our thinking of Christ produce? Does it produce desire—contrition—love—trust—resolution—prayer—action? What are we willing to suffer for Christ? What are we willing to part with for Christ? What can we cheerfully give to Christ, to feed His poor, or to help His cause?

*Oh! could I speak the matchless worth,—
Oh! could I sound the glories forth,
Which in my Saviour shine;
I'd soar and touch the heavenly strings,
And vie with Gabriel while he sings,
In notes almost divine.*

*Wherefore,
holy brethren,
partakers of the
heavenly calling,
consider the
Apostle and High
Priest of our
profession, Christ
Jesus;*

Hebrews 3:1

BELOVED, God hath called us by His grace and gospel, into the knowledge of Christ; into the favour of Jesus; to partake of the Spirit of His Son; to enjoy fellowship with Christ; to wear the image of Christ; and to possess and enjoy His righteousness, strength, wisdom, unsearchable riches, and eternal glory. This calling is heavenly in its origin, nature, tendency, and consummation; it is from heaven and to heaven. All believers partake of the same calling; they are called by the same voice, to the same Cross and

Throne, to possess and enjoy the same title, and to claim and use the same blessings. This calling is the greatest honour that can be conferred upon a sinner; it is altogether a favour, the fruit of free and everlasting love; its enjoyment calls for gratitude and praise. Are we called with an heavenly calling? Then we should come out from the world; walk with God; imitate the Saviour; set our affections upon things above, and prepare for, and hasten to, our blessed home, our glorious inheritance. Let us make our calling and our election SURE, and then sing—

*As Thou wilt, dispose of me,
Only make me one with Thee;
Make me in my life express
All the heights of holiness:
Sweetly in my spirit prove
All the depths of humble love!*

WHY then do you despond? Why are you satisfied to live so far below your privileges? The Holy Spirit is promised, to teach us all things; to testify of Jesus to our hearts; to glorify our precious Saviour in our souls; to help our infirmities, to comfort us by taking of the things of Christ, and showing them to us; and to lead us in the way everlasting. Do we experience His love in these particulars? If not—what is the cause? “Is the Spirit of the Lord straitened?” NO. But do we sow to the Spirit? Do we pray for the Spirit? Do we expect the Father to give Him, in answer to our prayers; that Jesus will send Him according to His promise? Oh, beloved, look at your doubts, your fears, your carnality, your coldness, your want of life, love, and power; and now ask—“Are these His doings?” Is His arm shortened? Is His love changed? Is His word false? Or, rather have you not grieved Him, quenched His operations, and caused Him to withhold His hand? Oh, pray for the Spirit! You are absolutely dependant upon Him, for without Him you can do nothing.

*O thou that art
named the house
of Jacob, is the
spirit of the LORD
straitened? are
these his doings?
do not my words
do good to him
that walketh
uprightly?*

Micah 2:7

*Come, Holy Ghost, all-quickenng fire,
My consecrated heart inspire,
Sprinkle with the atoning blood:
Still to my soul Thyself reveal;
Thy mighty working may I feel,
And know that I am one with God.*

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Hebrews 13:5

WE may not have what we wish, but we certainly have what our God thinks best for us. Every mercy is directed by infinite wisdom and eternal love, and never misses its road, or comes into the possession of any but the persons for whom it is intended. Let us therefore remember, that our God has chosen our inheritance for us, and it becomes us to be content; yea, to be very grateful. We have infinitely more than we deserve; we have more than many of our fellow-believers. We have liberty, while the Apostle

were shut up in prison; we have a home, while many of the primitive Christians wandered about in dens and caves of the earth; our lives are protected, while the martyrs were burned at the stake: we live in hope of heaven, while many are lifting up their eyes in hell, being in torments. Let us strive to be content with present things, and hope for better; let us endeavour to learn Paul's lesson, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound." And say—

*Take my soul and body's powers,
Take my memory, mind, and will,
All my goods, and all my hours,
All I know, and all I feel:
Thine I live, thrice happy I!
Happier still if Thine I die.*

WE are often discouraged by the difficulties of the way, and cast down through the weakness of our faith: we look to creatures, instead of looking to the Lord; and reflect upon our weakness, instead of believing His promises, and trusting His faithfulness. But the Lord our God should be the only and the constant object of our trust; His word warrants us to look to Him for all we need, both temporal and spiritual; and His character assures us that we cannot be disappointed. He will appear for us, and make all His goodness pass before us. If we connect prayer to God with trusting in God, and waiting for God, it is impossible that we should be left in trouble, or be neglected in distress. We may trust Him with the fullest confidence, and expect without doubting all He has promised to bestow. Are you at this time tried, tempted, and distressed? Cast your burden upon the Lord. Commit your way unto Him; He will bring to pass His largest promises and your best desires. Seek out His promises, confide in them, plead them with God, and expect their accomplishment. Oh, trust in the Lord forever!

*Trust ye in the
LORD for ever:
for in the LORD
JEHOVAH is
everlasting
strength:*

Isaiah 26:4

*Trust Him, He's faithful to His word,
His promise cannot fail;
He'll never leave you nor forsake,
Or let your foes prevail:
Then trust His word, expect His grace,
Until you see Him face to face.*

*For sin shall not
have dominion
over you: for ye
are not under the
law, but under
grace.*

Romans 6:14

BELIEVERS are delivered from the law, and are dead to it; they are married to Christ, and are alive unto God as a GOD OF LOVE. The curse is removed, sin is atoned for, and we stand as high in the favour of God as we possibly can. We should look upon ourselves as the favourites of God, His beloved children, whom He hath reconciled to Himself by the death of His Son. Grace reigns over us, rules in us, provides for us, and will glorify us. Why then should we fear? Of whom should we be afraid? Sin is pardoned. The law is magnified.

Justice is satisfied. God is at peace with us; yea, He delights in us. The world is overcome for us, and even Satan shall be bruised under our feet shortly. What shall we say to these things? As God is for us, and with us, who shall injure, or prevail against us? All things MUST work together for good; nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God; we shall be more than conquerors through Him who loved us; and why? Because WE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW, BUT UNDER GRACE. Because Jesus lives, we shall live also.

*On Jesus only I depend,
He is my Father, God, and Friend,
My Prophet, King, and Priest;
Had I an angel's holiness,
I'd cast aside that glorious dress,
And wrap me up in Christ.*

Scripture Memory Programme 2015 Wonderful Words of Life!

*Sing them over again to me, Wonderful words of life!
Let me more of their beauty see, Wonderful words of life!
Words of life and beauty, Teach me faith and duty!
Beautiful words! Wonderful words! Wonderful words of life!
- Philip P. Bliss -*

The Word of God is filled with words of truth, assurance and comfort. The 28 passages of Scripture found in this booklet are carefully selected to lead sinners to eternal life through Christ, and saints to experience abundant life in Christ. May the Lord bless and enrich your life with His wonderful words of Life as you memorise and meditate on them!

* * *

January 4 & 11 – Only One Way

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

January 18 & 25 – Man’s Sinfulness

Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

February 1 & 8 – Man’s Sinfulness

Romans 3:10 - As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.

February 15 & 22 – God’s Salvation

Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

March 1 & 8 – God’s Protection

Nahum 1:7 - The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

March 15 & 22 – Courage for Living

2 Timothy 1:7 - For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

March 29 – Strength for Living

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

April 5 & 12 – Christ Gives Life

John 11:25 - Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

April 19 & 26 – Christ Gives Rest

Matthew 11:28 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

May 3 & 10 – God Sustains

Isaiah 46:4 - And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

May 17 & 24 – God Empowers

Isaiah 40:29 - He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

May 31 – Salvation by Grace Alone

Ephesians 2:8,9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

June 7 & 14 – Shining as Lights

Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

June 21 & 28 – God’s Benevolence

John 6:37 - All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

July 5 & 12 – God Heals

Jeremiah 17:14 - Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

July 19 & 26 – A Ready Answer

1 Peter 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

August 2 & 9 – Reconciliation

Romans 5:10 - For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

August 16 & 23 – Confessing Christ

Luke 12:8 - Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.

August 30 – God’s Love

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

September 6 & 13 – Eternal Life

1 John 5:11,12 - And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

September 20 & 27 – God’s Security

2 Timothy 1:12 - For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

October 4 & 11 – God’s Help

Isaiah 41:13 - For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

October 18 & 25 – Perseverance

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised).

November 1 & 8 – Confessing Christ

1 John 4:15 - Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

November 15 & 22 – God Gives the Increase

1 Corinthians 3:7 - So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

November 29 – Discipleship

Matthew 28:19,20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

December 6 & 13 – Abounding Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:5 - For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

December 20 & 27 – Rejoicing in God

Habakkuk 3:18 - Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

